



Shojo Beat Manga

love★com

TM



Story & Art by

Aya Nakahara

6



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The Story So Far . . .

Riso ond Ôtani ore their class's lapsed comedy du...except thot naw, Riso's fallen in love with Ôtani! With the suppart af their friends, Risa screws up the couroge to tell him how she feels...anly ta be turned down. Even so, she decides not ta give up an him just yet...

But then, Ôtani's ex-girlfriend Mayu (very cute) suddenly shaws up ond wonts ta see him! Funny Girl Risa thinks it's oll aver for her...but far some reasan, Ôtani tells Mayu he con't get together with her. A faint flicker af hape lights up ogoin in Risa's heart...

Sa when Valentine's Doy rolls around, Risa plans ta give Ôtani o "far real" valentine—but thanks to Haruka bursting inta their classraam ond causing o scene, now everybody knows he turned her down before. This makes Ôtani feel he con't accept o "true love" valentine fram Riso, ond he rejects her hamemade chacalote offering for the secand yeor in a raw! Risa, however, says Ôtani did nothing wrang, ond forces him to take it...

♥ To really get all the details, check out *Lovely Complex* vols. 1-5, ovailable at baakstores everywhere!!

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RISA
KOIZUMI



LOVELY ★
COMPLEX

ATSUSHI
ÔTANI

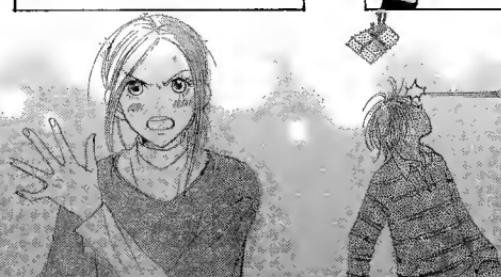


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Aya Nakahara

...ÔTANI
SAID IT'S
A "TOUGH
CALL" IF HE
WANTS TO
GO OUT
WITH ME
OR NOT.

ACCORDING
TO MY
SOURCE'S
SOURCE...



OH,
SHUT
UP AND
GO
AWAY.

IT'S
TOTALLY
UNBELIEV-
ABLE.

I MEAN,
JEEZ,
LOOK
AT THIS!
IT'S STILL
THERE
AFTER A
WHOLE
WEEK.

I'M
SCARRED
FOR LIFE BY
A VALENTINE
HURLED AT
MY HEAD.



CHAPTER 21

THE
SAME
SOURCE

...TOLD MY
SOURCE
THAT HE
ALSO
SAID...

AND
I GAVE
YOU
ANOTHER
ONE
LATER,
DIDN'T I!
A NICE
ONE!

WELL,
I DIDN'T
PUT THAT
THERE!!

Haruka
did a
switch!

AND WHAT
DO I GET FOR
MY TROUBLE?
YELLED AT.
AND A SHARP
CORNER IN MY
FOREHEAD.

PLUS, WHEN
I OPEN THE
BOX, THERE'S
A CARTOON
POOP ON MY
VALENTINE.
▲

WHAT'S
SO DARN
FUNNY
ABOUT
IT?!

FINE,
'CUZ I'M
COUNTER-
SUING
YOU!!!

NEXT
TIME WE
MEET
IS IN
COURT!!

RISA
DOESN'T
SEEM
VERY DEV-
ASTATED,
DOES
SHE?

They're
just like
before.

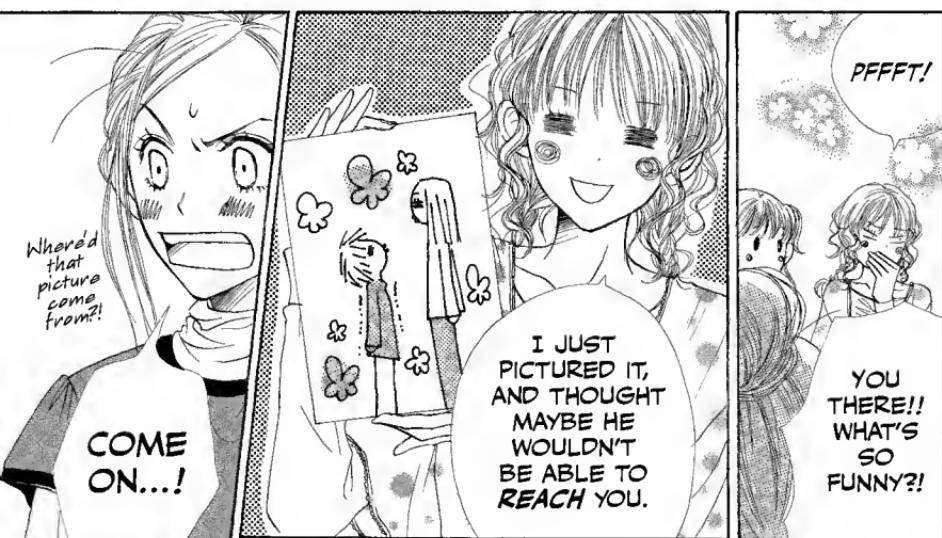
'CUZ I'M
SUING
YOU FOR
DEFAMA-
TION!!

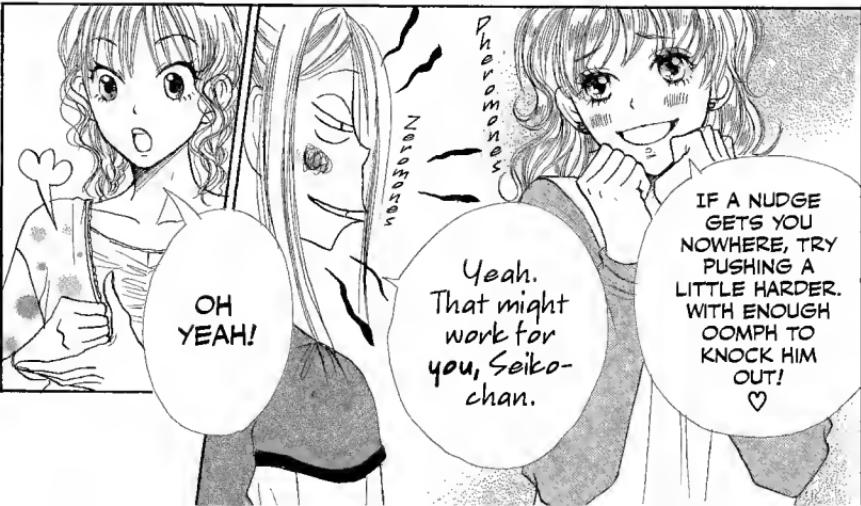
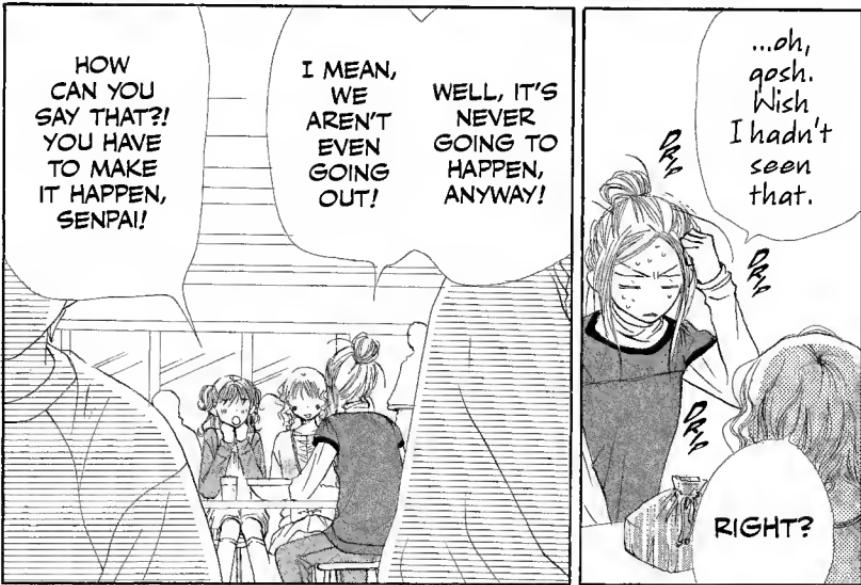
WELL,
JEEZ,
DUDE, I
MEAN...

LIKE, IF
WE GO
OUT, WE
KISS AND
STUFF,
RIGHT?!!

WERE
TALKING
ABOUT
ME AND
KOIZUMI.
I MEAN,
THAT'S
KINDA
FUNNY!!

THOSE
WERE,
SUPPOSEDLY,
HIS EXACT
WORDS.







DON'T YOU WANT
TO WALK AROUND
HOLDING HANDS
AND KISSING EACH
OTHER AND STUFF
LIKE THAT?

NO...!

NOT
REALLY...

UH...
HOW
COME
...?

BUT THEN...
HOW COME
YOU WANT
TO BE HIS
GIRLFRIEND,
SENPAI?

YOU
GUYS
MAKING
FUN OF
ME?!

OHHH,
HOW
SWEET-
EEET!
♥

RISA'S IDEA OF
HAPPINESS IS TO
SIT AROUND WITH
ÔTANI GOING,
"OOOOh, UMIBÔZU,
WOWWW!"
♥

OH,
FORGET
IT, SEIKO.

I SWEAR.
EVERYBODY
IS MAKING
ME REALLY
MAD.
I MEAN,
GOSH.



Hello! Nakahara here. We're up to Volume 6. Wow. This is turning into a very long series...

So far, my series have always been like the Hanshin Tigers, running out of steam very fast indeed, but this time, I seem to be going after my first league title ever. hahahahaha

I hope that, like true Hanshin Tiger fans, you'll continue to give me your steadfast, lukewarm support.

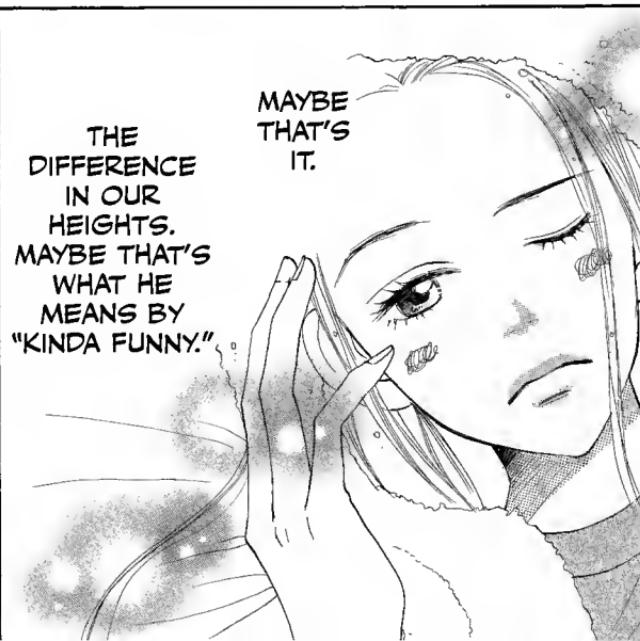
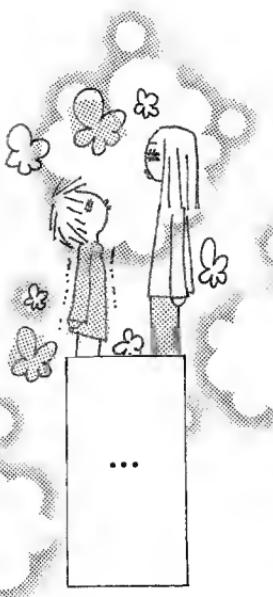


FLOOR

↑
Balloons

Who would ever believe a professional manga artist drew these balloons?!

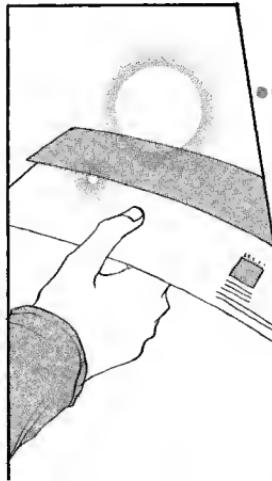
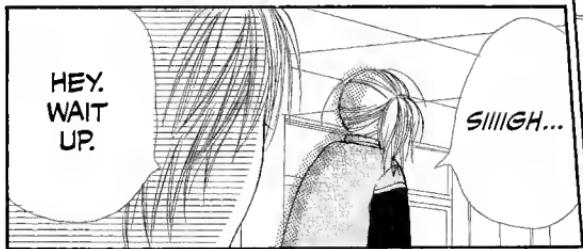
A friend of mine managed to score super-premium tickets to a Hanshin-Kyôjin game when the Tigers were on the verge of winning the pennant. I was invited to go, but couldn't because of work. Bummer... I'm not a big baseball fan at all, but like all people from Kansai, I'm always rooting for those Tigers.

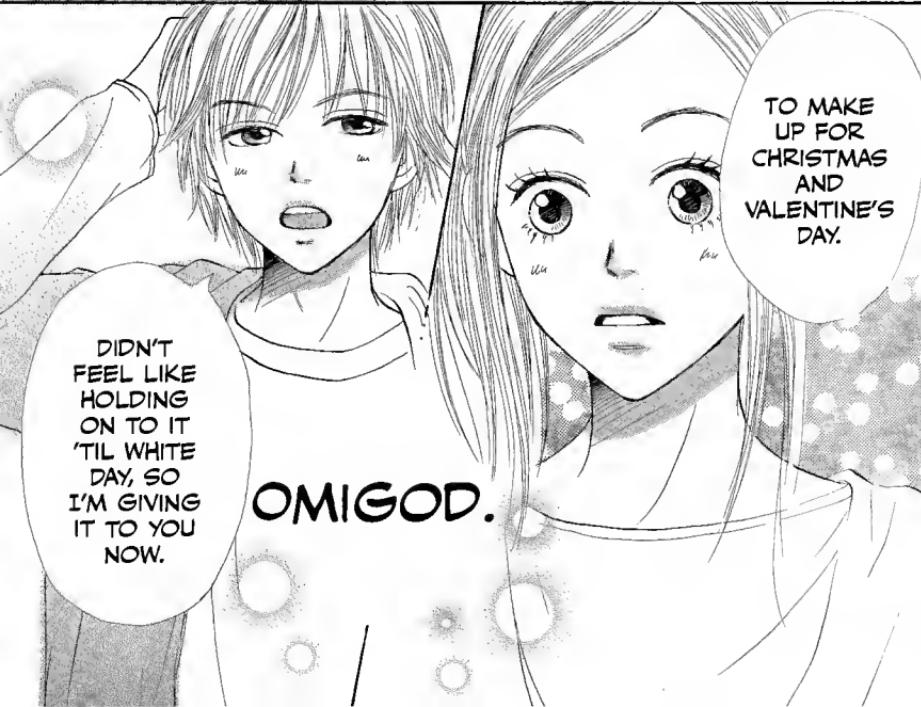
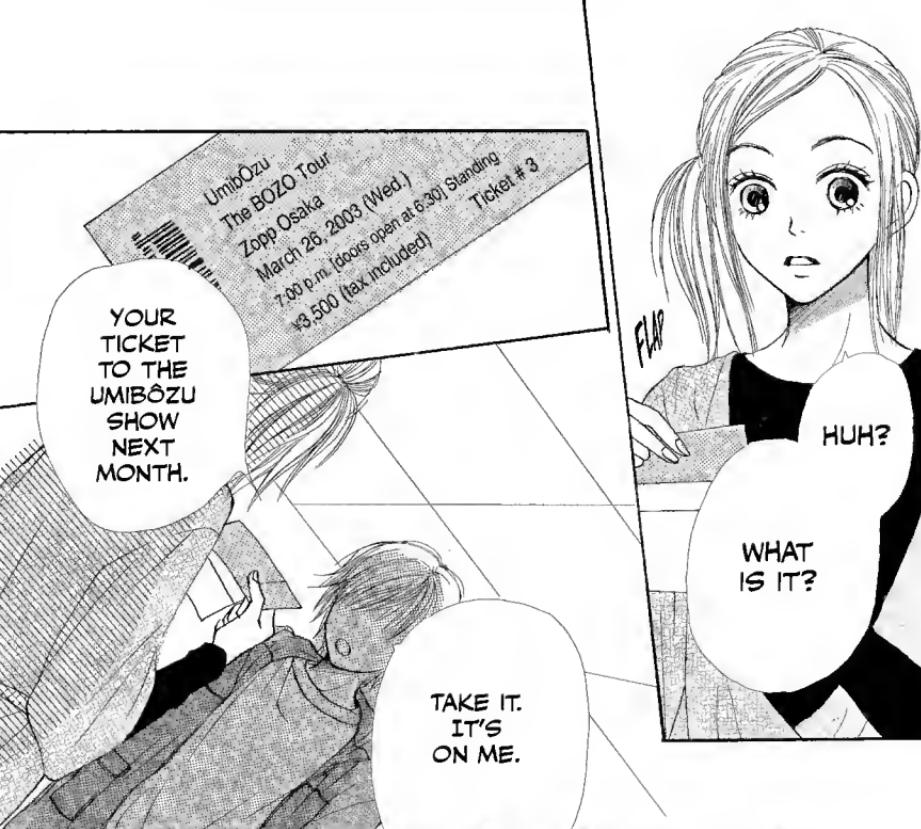




WELL, THAT'S JUST GREAT. I MEAN, THERE ISN'T A WHOLE LOT I CAN DO ABOUT THAT.

MAYBE THAT'S WHY GOING OUT WITH ME IS A "TOUGH CALL."







I AM SO STOKED.
I NEVER
THOUGHT HE'D
ACTUALLY GET
ME ANYTHING,
NOT AFTER I
PRACTICALLY
FORCED THAT
VALENTINE DOWN
HIS THROAT.



OKAY, SO
I'M JUST A
BIG KINDER-
GARTENER WHO'S
HAPPY GOING,
"UMIBÔZU,
WOW!" WELL,
EXCUUUUZE
ME!

DID
I SAY
ANYTHING
JUST
NOW?
NO.

WHEN'S
THE
SHOW?

MM-
HMM.

DAY
AFTER
THE LAST
DAY OF
SCHOOL.

SO YOU
MAKE
IT SEXY,
YOU BIG
NITWIT!!

COME ON,
NOBU, IT'S
NOT A
DATE OR
ANYTHING
SEXY LIKE
THAT...

nnahaha

DATE?

SO HEY,
THIS'LL
BE YOUR
FIRST DATE
IN A LONG
TIME. JUST
THE TWO
OF YOU.



I
WON'T
THROW
ANY-
THING
AT YOU!

BETTER
NOT.

YOU GOT
NOTHING
BETTER
TO DO?

I SWEAR,
I FIND YOU
LYING IN
WAIT FOR ME
LIKE THAT, IT'S
SCARY. LIKE
SOMETHING'S
GONNA HIT ME
IN THE HEAD.

I WANT
TO STOP
BEING A
"TOUGH
CALL"...

Final Exam Schedule

I never
heard
of this.

SO I AM
GOING
TO START
WORKING
HARDER
AT THIS!

25

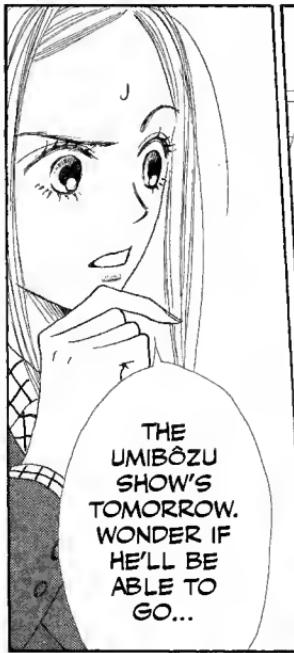
Last day
of school!!

26

Umbabu
show!!

Spring
vacation

WHAT?!





WHAT
DO I DO
IF HIS
MOM
ANSWERS
THE
DOOR?

I'M
GETTING
REALLY
NERVOUS
...

I AM
WOMAN,
HEAR ME
ROAR!

NO! I
GOTTA
GO
THROUGH
WITH
THIS!!

UM!

HIS
MOM!!

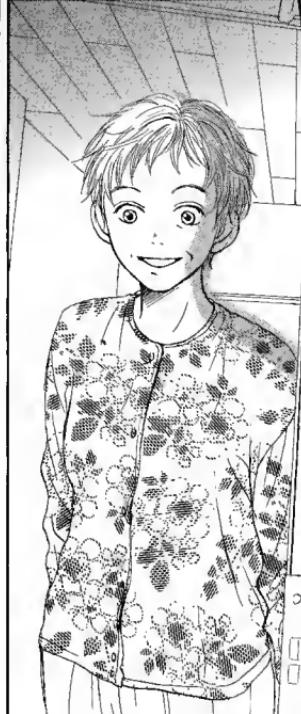
JUST A
MOMENT!

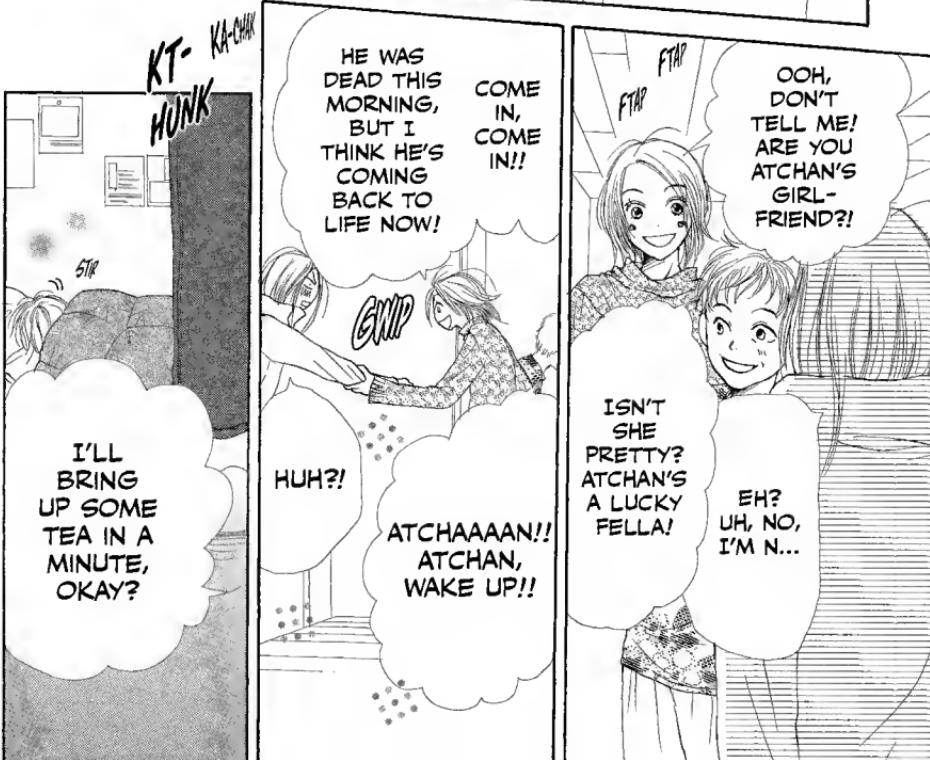
Ding
Dong

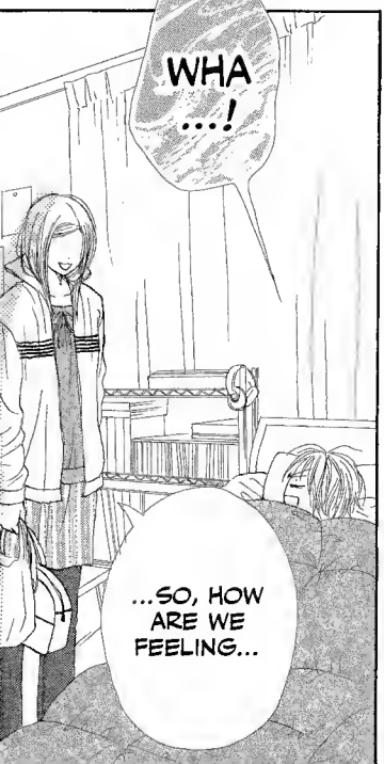
FTAP

FTAP

FTAP







SHUT UP AND
GET THE HECK
OUTTA HERE!!

FIVE FOOT
EIGHT!!
GOODNESS,
THAT'S A LOT
TALLER THAN
YOU, ATCHAN.
YOU MUST
LOOK SO
SILLY NEXT
TO HER!

YELL AT
ME ALL
YOU WANT,
IT DOESN'T
SCAARE
MEEE.

OH, DON'T
SAY THAT.
YOUR
SISTER
WENT
AND GOT
IT JUST
FOR YOU.

I'M
SICK!
I DON'T
WANT
CAKE!!

HANG
ON,
KIDS...
I'M
GOING
TO CUT
IT FOR
YOU,
OKAY?

OH,
UM...
ABOUT
FIVE
FOOT
EIGHT.

YOU'RE
PRETTY
TALL,
AREN'T
YOU?
HOW
TALL?

NO
WE
ARE
NOT!!

YOU'RE
GOING
OUT,
AREN'T
YOU?

WHY
WOULD
I WANT
TO KISS
HER
IN THE
FIRST
PLACE?!

YOU CAN'T
KISS
STANDING
UP, CAN
YOU? YOU
HAVE TO
SIT DOWN!



KA-CHAP

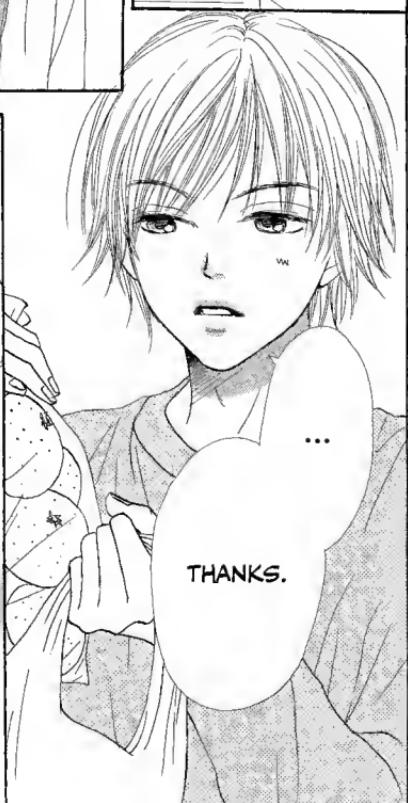
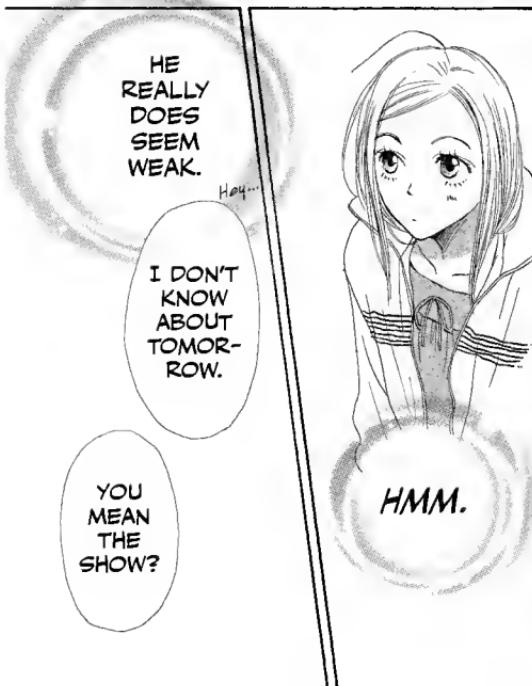
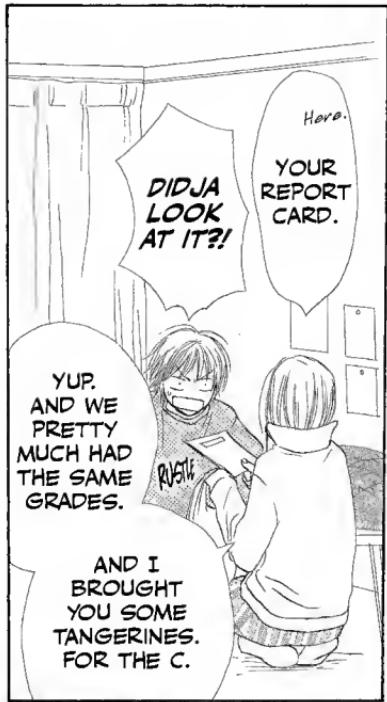
BAM

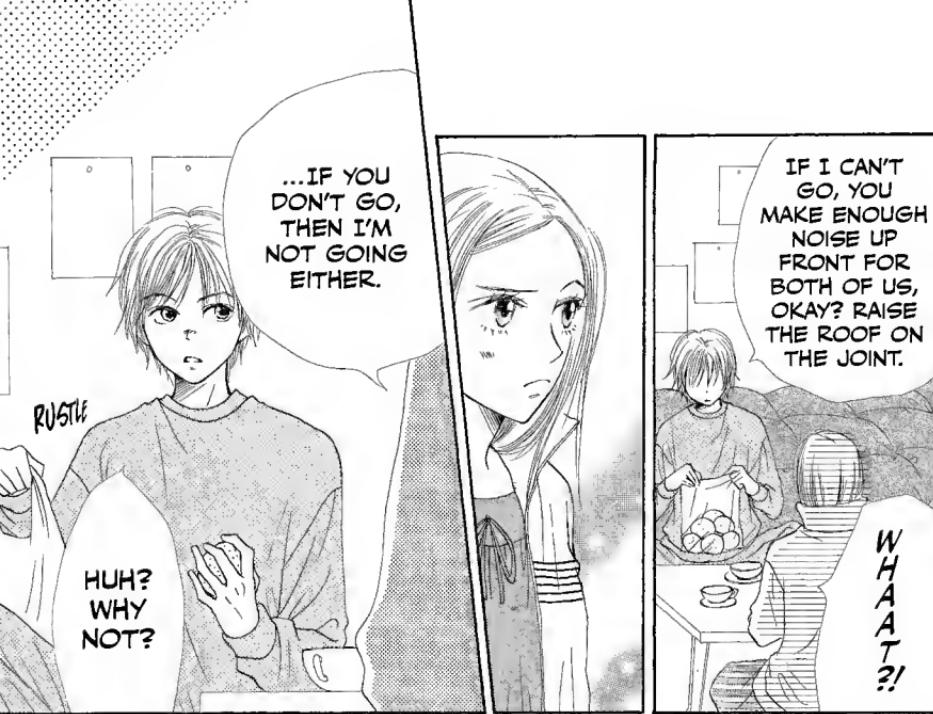
SHOCK

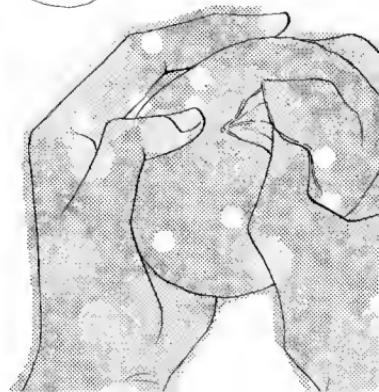
NOW GET
OUT, BOTH
OF YA! I'M
SERIOUS!

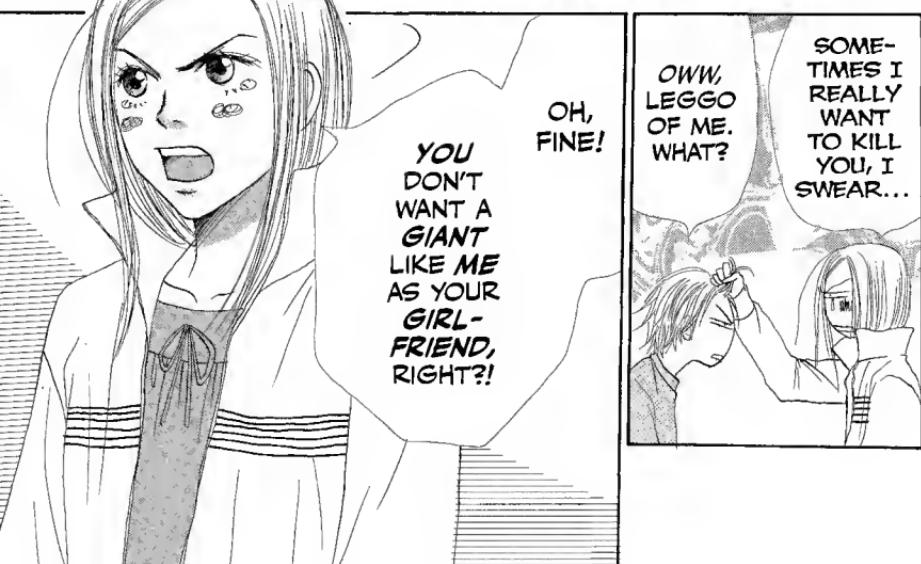
What's
with
them...?



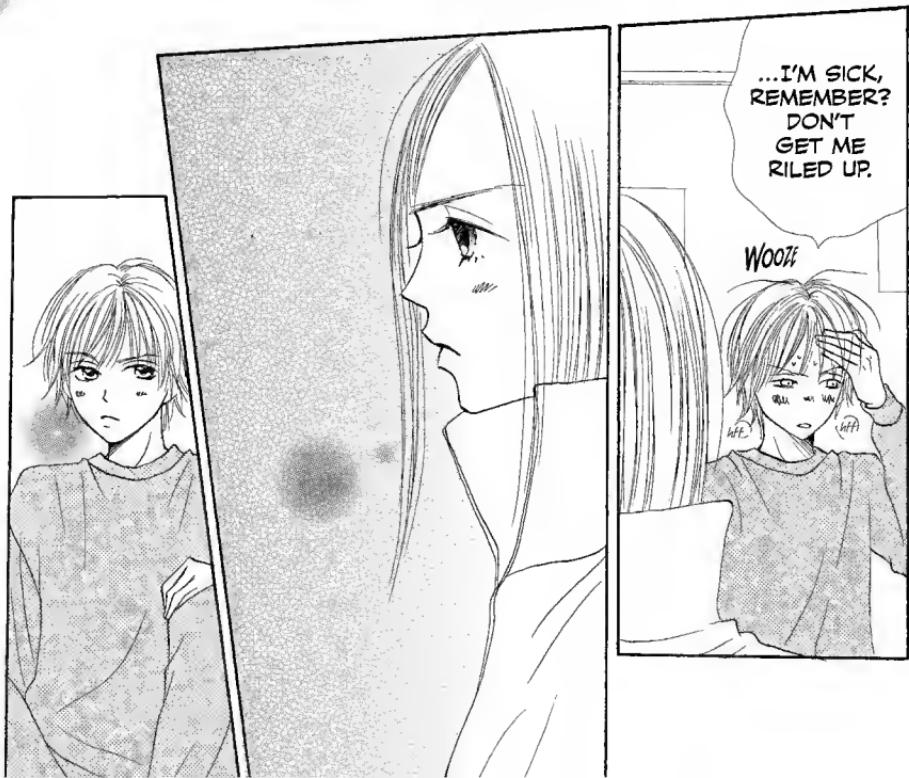
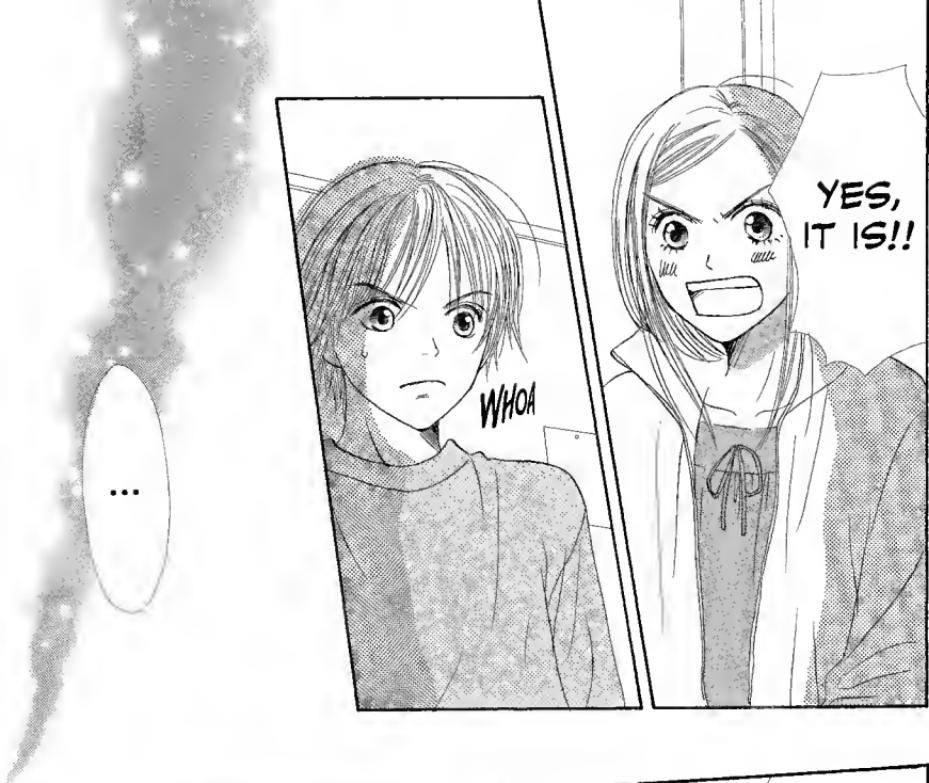


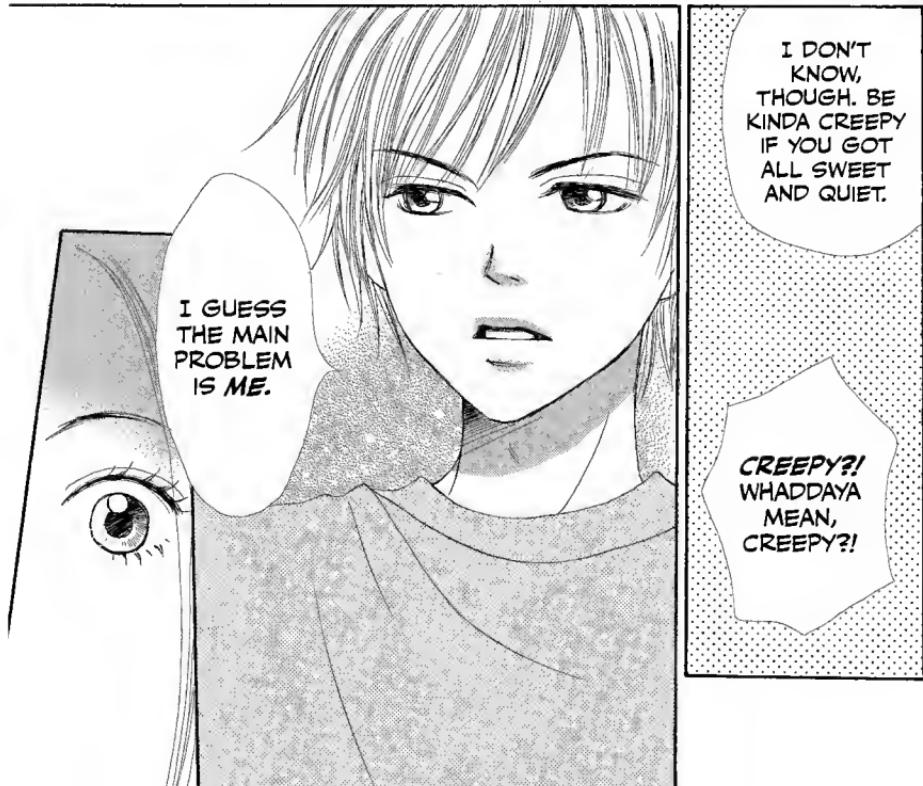
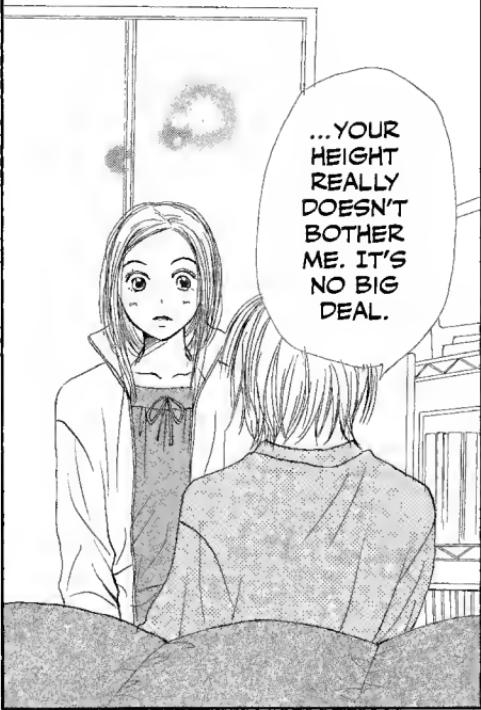


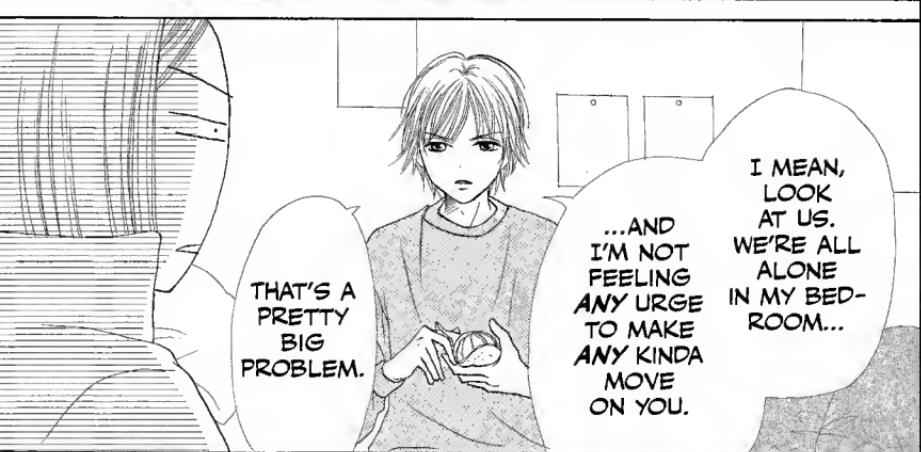








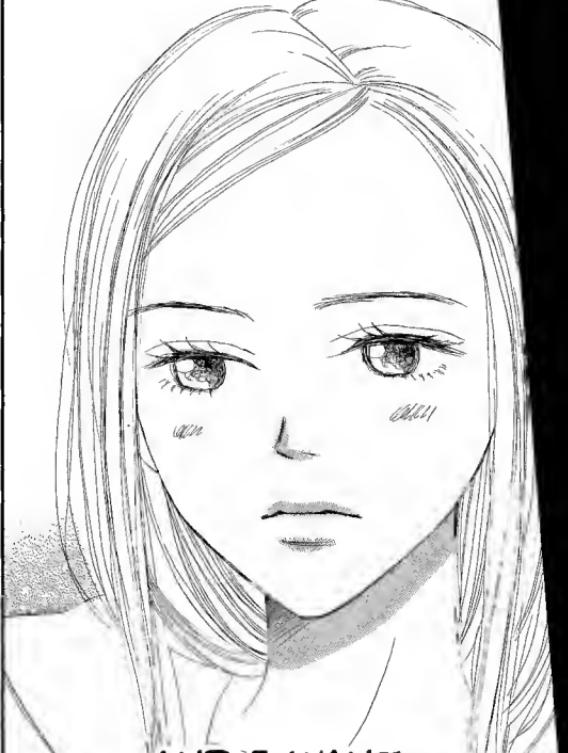




IN OTHER WORDS,
HE ISN'T ATTRACTED TO ME.
NOT EVEN THE TINIEST LITTLE BIT.

...OHHH.
SO
THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT.

LIKE, IF WE GO OUT,
WE KISS AND STUFF, RIGHT?
I MEAN, THAT'S KINDA FUNNY!



I DIDN'T
TELL ÔTANI
I LOVE HIM
BECAUSE
I WANT TO
MAKE OUT
WITH HIM.

AND I WANT
TO BE WITH
HIM ALL THE
TIME, EVEN
IF WE'RE
JUST GOOF-
ING AROUND
AND HANGING
OUT LIKE WE
ALWAYS ARE.



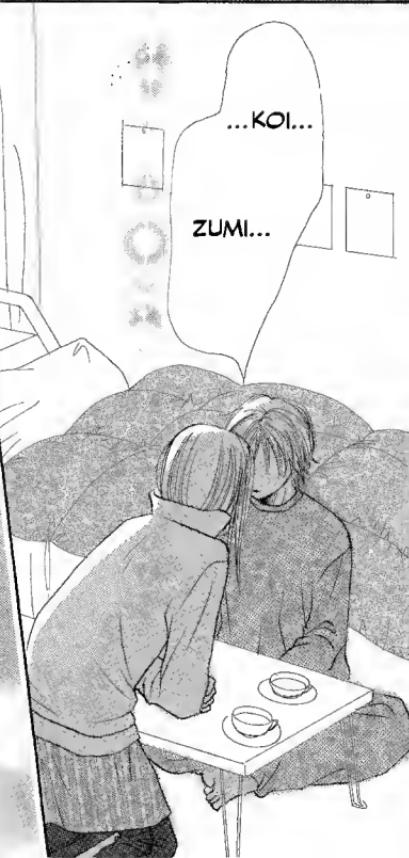
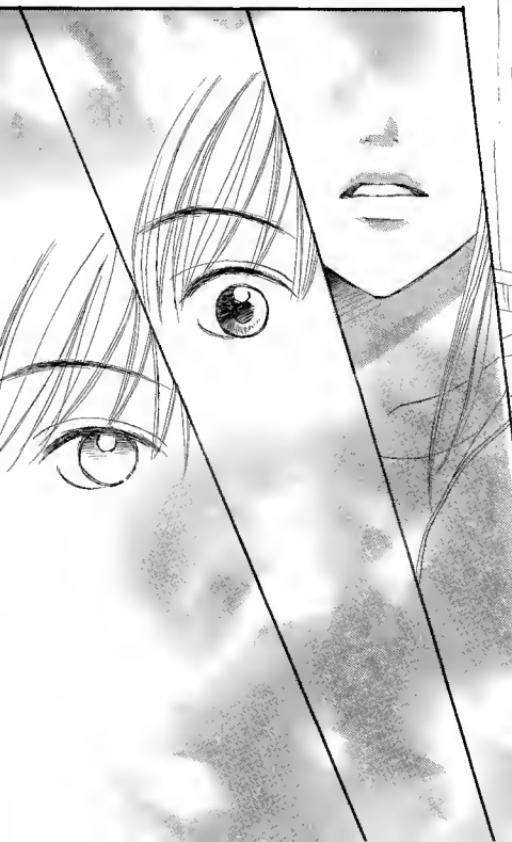
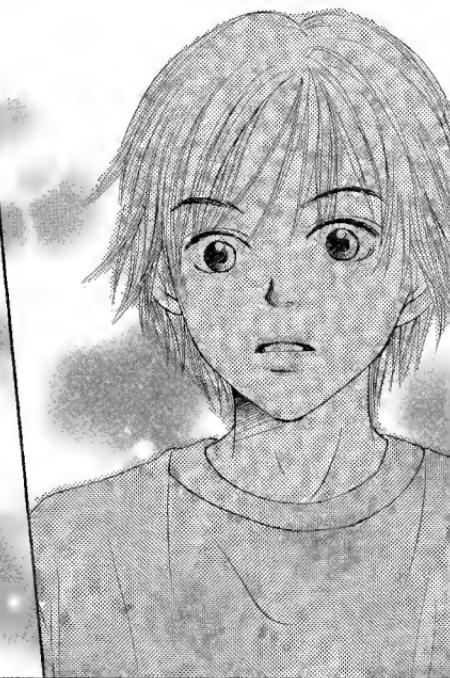
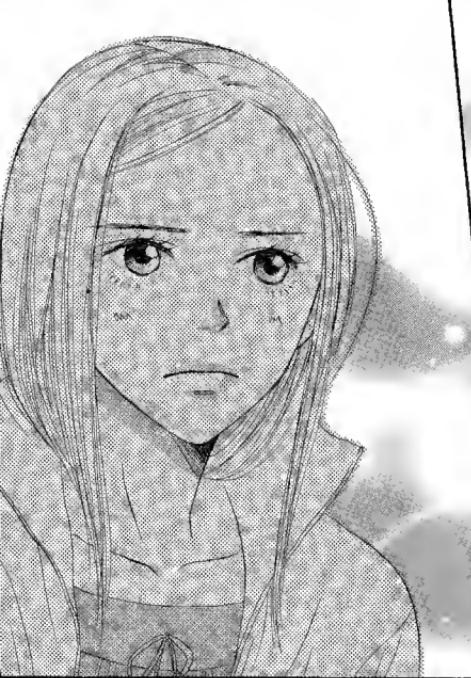
I JUST
LOVE
HIM,
THAT'S
ALL.

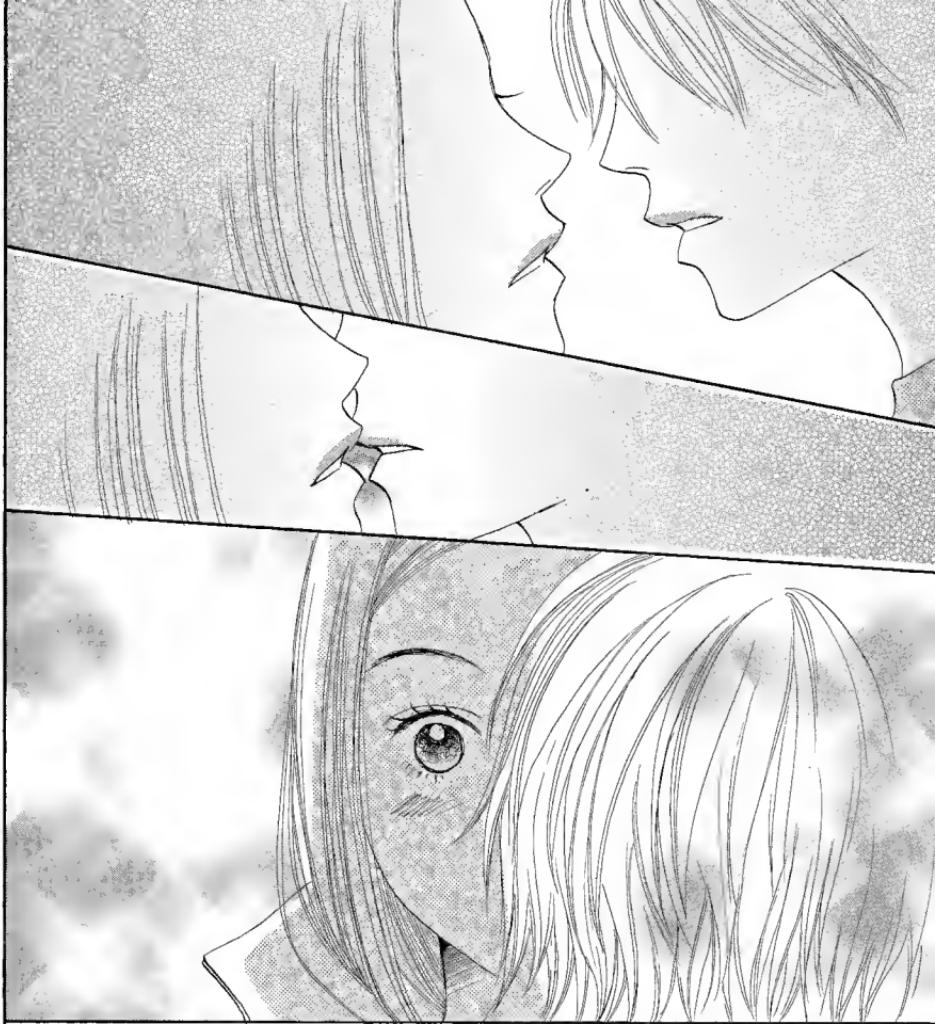


PLOMP

I
DON'T...

...ATTRACT
YOU AT
ALL?







HE
JUST...

HE...

AT
CHAN!!

GOOD-
NESS,
YOU'VE
GOT A
RAGING
FEVER
AGAIN!

...KISSED
ME!!

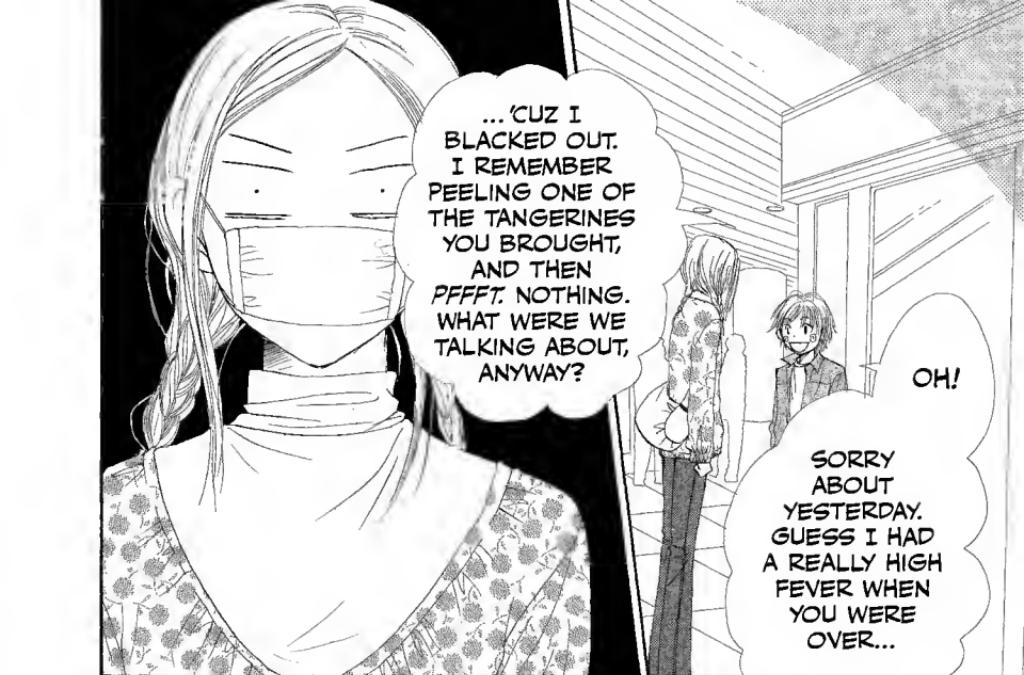
WE'RE
GOING
TO THE
UMIBÔZU
SHOW
TOMORROW
TOO.

OMI-
GOD.

WHAT DO
I DO?!
WHAT DO
I SAY
WHEN I
SEE HIM?!

GUESS
WHAT?
I'M
FINE.
I FEEL
GREAT!

HEYYY!
HOW'S IT
GOIN'?



... 'CUZ I
BLACKED OUT.
I REMEMBER
PEELING ONE OF
THE TANGERINES
YOU BROUGHT,
AND THEN
PFFFFT. NOTHING.
WHAT WERE WE
TALKING ABOUT,
ANYWAY?

OH!

SORRY
ABOUT
YESTERDAY.
GUESS I HAD
A REALLY HIGH
FEVER WHEN
YOU WERE
OVER...



...WHAT
DID YOU
JUST SAY?



HEY,
YOU
SICK?
WHAT'S
THE
MASK
FOR?



NOTHING?!

NUFFIN!!
At all!!

NOTHING.

NOTHING
?



UHM... I
REMEMBER
PEELING A
TANGERINE,
AND THEN
PFFFFT?

BEFORE
THAT.

HEY,
YOU
SICK,
WHAT'S
THE
MASK
FOR?

HE
DOESN'T
REMEM-
BER?

C'MON,
LET'S GET
A BITE
TO EAT
BEFORE
THE
SHOW!

MAN,
WHAT A
GORGEOUS
DAY,
THOUGH,
HUH? I'M
SO GLAD
I'M OVER
MY COLD!

NOTHIN G?

HE
REMEM-
BERS
NOTHIN G?

HEH?!

SCREW
YOU,
SHRIMP!!

A NEW
SCHOOL
YEAR'S
ABOUT
TO
START.

IT'S
SPRING
AGAIN.





CHAPTER 22

THAT'S
MORE
LIKE IT.

THAT
SMILE
IS WHAT
KEEPES ME
GOING,
RISA.

SMILE

NOOOO,
SAY IT!
TELL ME!
COME
OOONNN!

NO.
IGNORE
THAT, IT'S
NOTHING.

RISA,
I THINK
I MIGHT
BE IN...

I CAN
HARDLY
BREATHE
WHEN YOU
LOOK AT
ME LIKE
THAT.

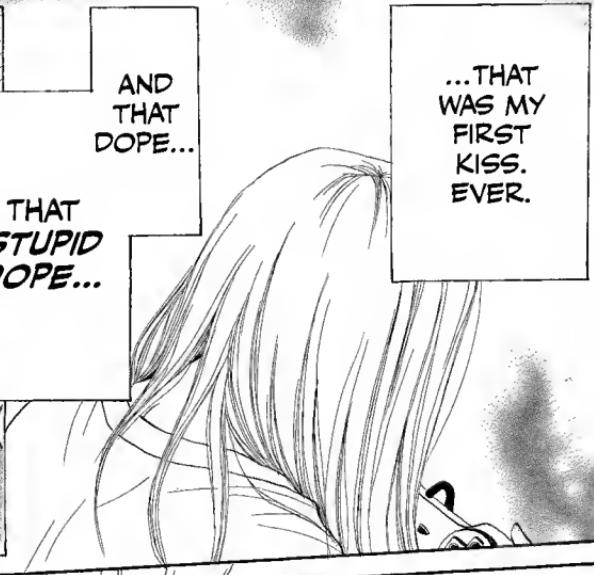
YOU
ARE SO
SWEET,
CAIN...

IF
YOU
WANT
TO
KNOW...

RISA...

WHO'S
THIS
CAIN
PERSON
SHE'S
TALKING
TO?

I
THINK
MY
SISTER
IS SERI-
OUSLY
LOSING
IT.



...THAT
WAS MY
FIRST
KISS.
EVER.











2

So...guess what?
They're going to put out
a Love*Com drama CD.
Ta-dah! Hah heh heh heh.

There must be at least
some of you asking, what
does that mean? Well,
it's a CD with a special
Love*Com episode on it.
With voice actors
giving life to all the
characters. Oooh! ^*^

As I write this, it's still
in the planning stages.
I'd like to be involved as
much as I can, to help
make it a really fun CD.

Right now I'm coming
up with some new story
lines for it.
Hope you'll be interested...
^

I'm the type of person
who, once she gets into
something, gets into it all
the way, i.e. a pretty big
otaku, so I happen to own
a lot of these drama CDs.
But I listen to them
because I love the
manga, so, well, sorry to
say this, but I was never
very up on the voice
actors in them. Was! Ulp!!
Mommy, she switched to
past tense in the middle
of the sentence!!
Now I kinda know who
all the different voice
actors are. heh heh heh

GET A GRIP,
KOIZUMI. I'M
NOT SOME
GUY IN A
COMPUTER
GAME, OKAY?

THIS IS
REAL LIFE,
NOT A
FANTASY.

Ah!
THAT
IS NOT
WHAT IT
WAS, YOU
DORRR-
RK!!

SO
WHAT
WAS
THAT?

WHAT ON
EARTH
WAS THAT
KISS ALL
ABOUT?

THE
QUESTION
IS, WAS HE
CONSCIOUS
WHEN HE
KISSED ME,
OR NOT?

I KNOW
HE WAS
SICK AND
HAD A
REALLY
HIGH
FEVER.

...NOTHING.

blah

blah

HEY...

WHAT'RE
YOU
SO MAD
AT HIM
ABOUT?

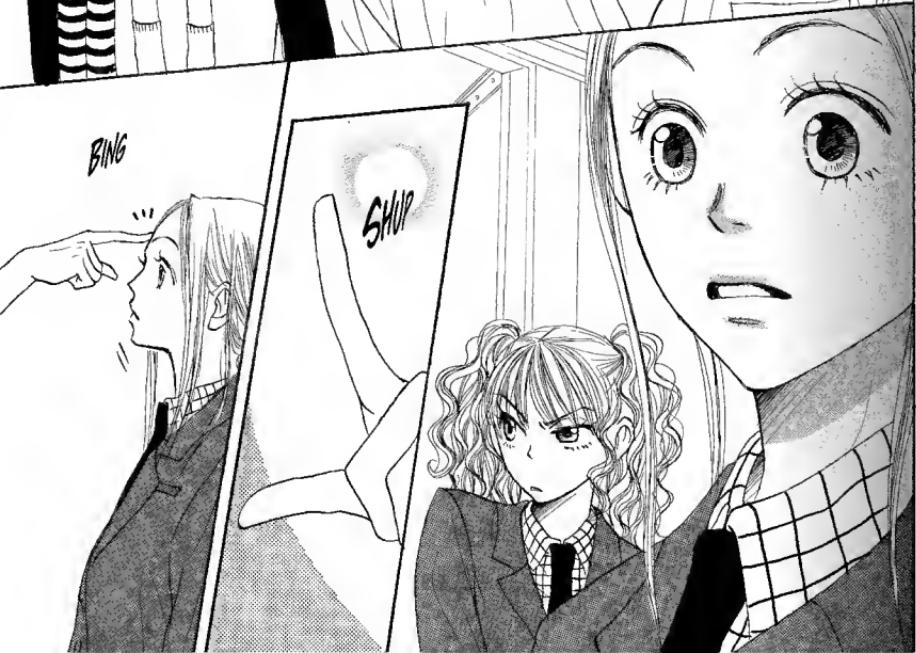
...THE
WHOLE
THING WAS
JUST AN
ACCIDENT.

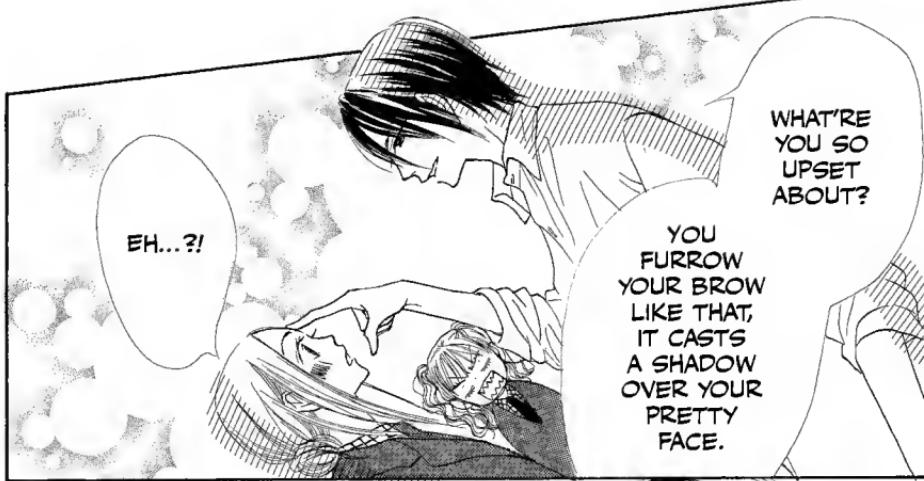
WELL, NO,
IT ISN'T.
'CUZ IF HE
DOESN'T
REMEMBER
IT HAPPEN-
ING, THEN
EITHER
WAY...

BECAUSE I
DON'T HAVE
AN OUNCE OF
SEX APPEAL
AND HE ISN'T
ATTRACTED
TO ME THE
TINIEST BIT!!

SOMETHING
HAPPENED
BETWEEN YOU
TWO WHEN YOU
WENT OVER TO
HIS HOUSE, I
JUST KNOW IT.

NOTHING
HAPPENED
BETWEEN US,
AS FAR
AS HE'S
CONCERNED.
NOTHING!!





YOU FURROW YOUR BROW LIKE THAT, IT CASTS A SHADOW OVER YOUR PRETTY FACE.



GUYS
LIKE THAT
ACTUALLY
DO EXIST
IN REAL
LIFE...

blah

THAT'S
IT!!

JUST
LIKE
CAIN!!

blah

OH,
YEAH!

heh
heh

heh

YOU ARE
SERIOUSLY
FREAKING
ME OUT.

M
M
M
M
M
M

WONDER
WHICH
CLASS
HE'S
IN...?

S
M
I
L
E

GUYS
LIKE THAT
ACTUALLY
DO EXIST
IN REAL
LIFE...

blah

THAT'S
IT!!

JUST
LIKE
CAIN!!

blah

OH,
YEAH!

heh
heh

heh

YOU ARE
SERIOUSLY
FREAKING
ME OUT.

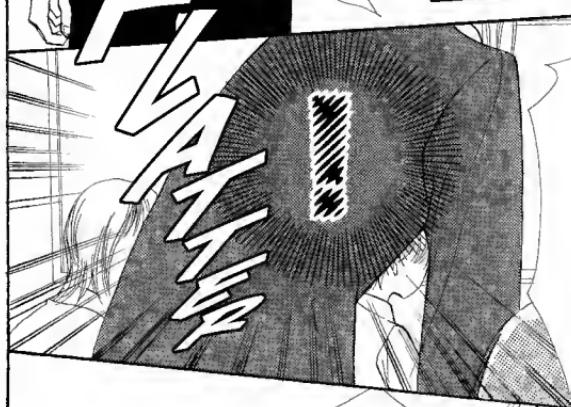
M
M
M
M
M
M

WONDER
WHICH
CLASS
HE'S
IN...?

S
M
I
L
E

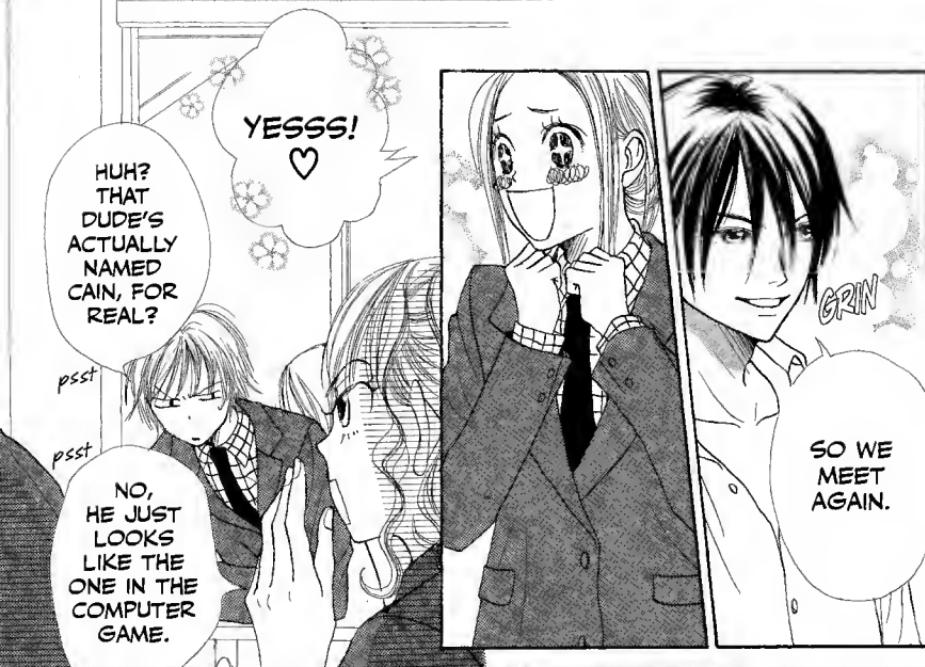






JUST GET
A GRIP,
KOIZUMI!
CAIN IS 2D,
OKAY?! HE
DOES NOT
EXIST IN...

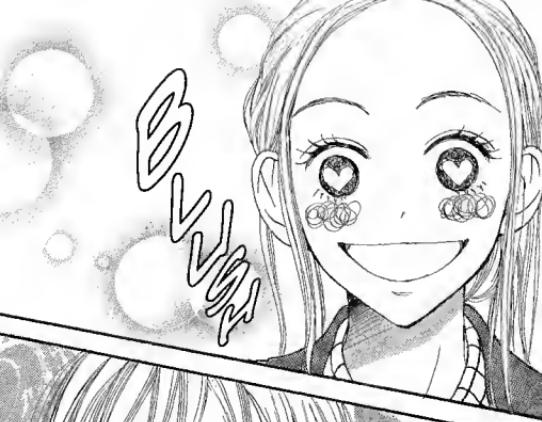






DECIDE WHO OUR CLASS REPS WILL BE WHILE YOU'RE UP THERE, WILL YOU?





huff
OVER
MY DEAD
BODY,
RISA!!
THE GUY IS
SERIOUSLY
CHEESY!!

WISH
I COULD
JUST SWITCH
OVER TO HIM,
THOUGH.
WOULD MAKE
MY LIFE A
LOT EASIER.

HUH?

NO, OF
COURSE
NOT.

MIGHTY'S LIKE
CAIN. HE'S LIKE
THIS LUSH OASIS
IN THE PARCHED
DESERT OF MY
LIFE, WHERE
I CAN SEEK
SHELTER FROM
HARSH REALITY
FOR A MOMENT.

I WISH
LIFE WAS
LIKE A
GAME.
WHEN YOU
MESS UP,
YOU JUST
START OVER
AGAIN...

HOW LONG
AM I GOING
TO HAVE MY
WHOLE LIFE
RULED BY
ÔTANI LIKE
THIS?

Babyee,
Ôtani,
we're
going!

HUFF
AND
MAKING
THAT FACE
DOES NOT
MAKE
YOU ANY
CUTER!

SORRY,
BUT THAT
SOUNDS
LIKE A
HALLMARK
CARD FROM
A TOO-
SCARED-
TO-FACE-
REAL-LIFE
GAMER.

...AND
ON THIS
CRUSH
THAT'S
LIKE A
LONG
DARK
TUNNEL
WITH NO
LIGHT AT
THE END
OF IT?

...ON
THAT
STUPID
IDIOT...

DO I
REALLY
WANT TO
KEEP
WASTING
THE
SPRINGTIME
OF MY
LIFE...

OH,
SHUT
UP AND
LEAVE
ME
ALONE!!

FINE,
WHATEVER.
DIFFERENT
SUBJECT.
I SERIOUSLY
THINK IT'S
FREAKY TO
CALL A LIVING
PERSON
BY A GAME
CHARACTER'S
NAME.

SO HOW
COME YOU
GOTTA
VOLUNTEER
ME TO
BE CLASS
REP TOO?

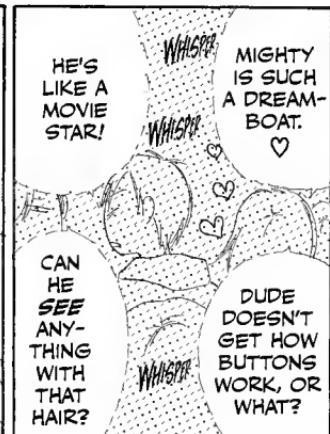
DID
I DO
SOME-
THING?

...HEY.

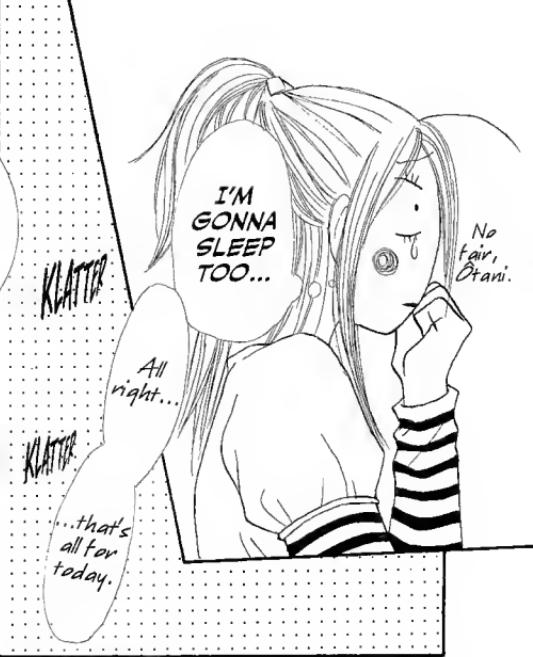
PAY-
BACK
FOR
LAST
YEAR.
PLUS
YOU'RE
USED TO IT.











ÔTANI
DRIVES
ME NUTS.
MAKING
ME DO
THE CLASS
REP STUFF
AND TAKING
OFF FOR
PRACTICE.

LIKE,
IF THEIR
COACH ISN'T
THERE, THEY
DON'T EVEN
HAVE TO
PRACTICE IN
THE FIRST
PLACE.

GYARGH!!
PLEEZE!!

WHY'S IT
GOTTA
BE ÔTANI
FOR ME?

I MEAN,
MIGHTY IS
SO FINE.

BUT...IS
THAT EVEN
ALLOWED?!
I MEAN,
HE'S A TOTAL
SHRIMP
AND HE'S
CAPTAIN?!

I MEAN,
I HEARD
HE MIGHT
GET TO
BE, BUT
OMIGOD,
HE REALLY
IS?!

NO
WAY!!

I DON'T
THINK SO,
RISA. ÔTANI'S
CAPTAIN,
AFTER ALL.
HE CAN'T
JUST GOOF
OFF.

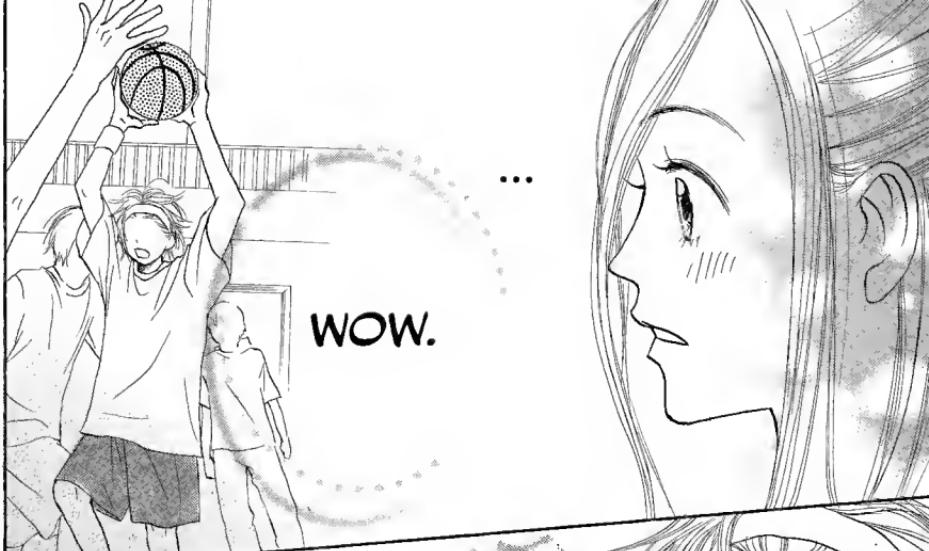
TONE
IT DOWN,
RISA.
IF ÔTANI
HEARS
YOU,
HE'LL BE
SUPER-
MAD.

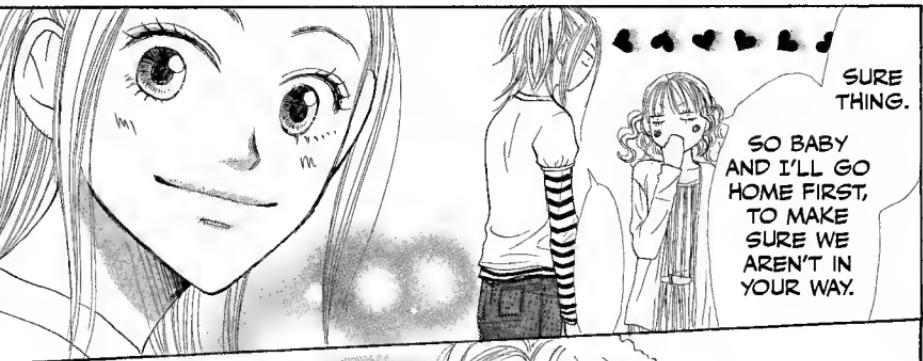
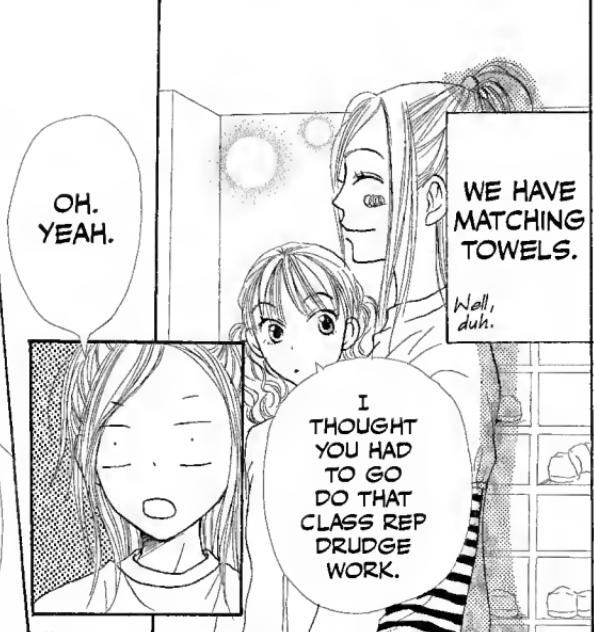
HE
REALLY
IS.

YOU
DIDN'T
KNOW?

HEH?

ALL THE
OTHER
VARSITY
PLAYERS
FROM
LAST YEAR
GRADUATED,
AND ÔTANI'S
CAPTAIN
THIS YEAR.





HE'S THE
ONE FOR
ME, THAT'S
ALL. HE
JUST IS.

OH, HEY—
HOW WAS
PRACTICE?

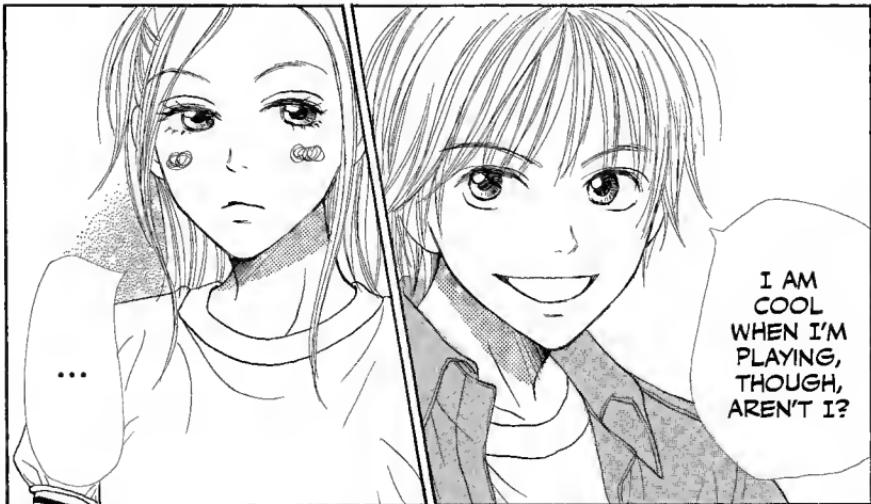
SORRY
I'M SO
LATE.

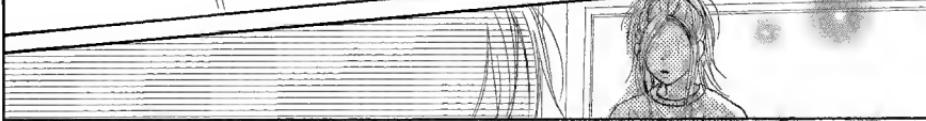
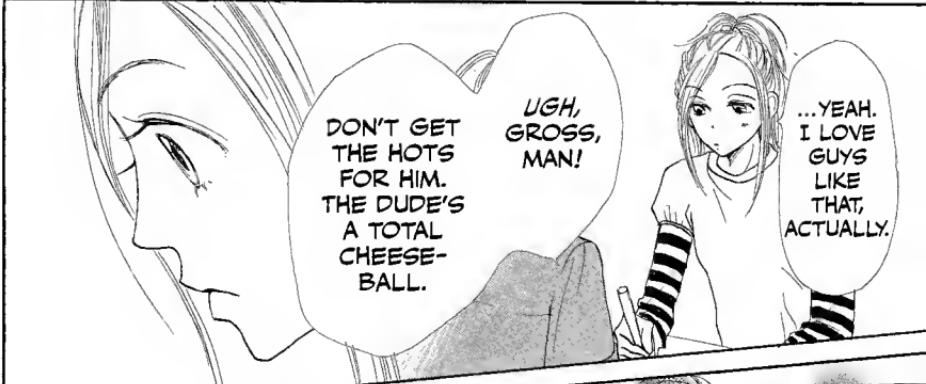
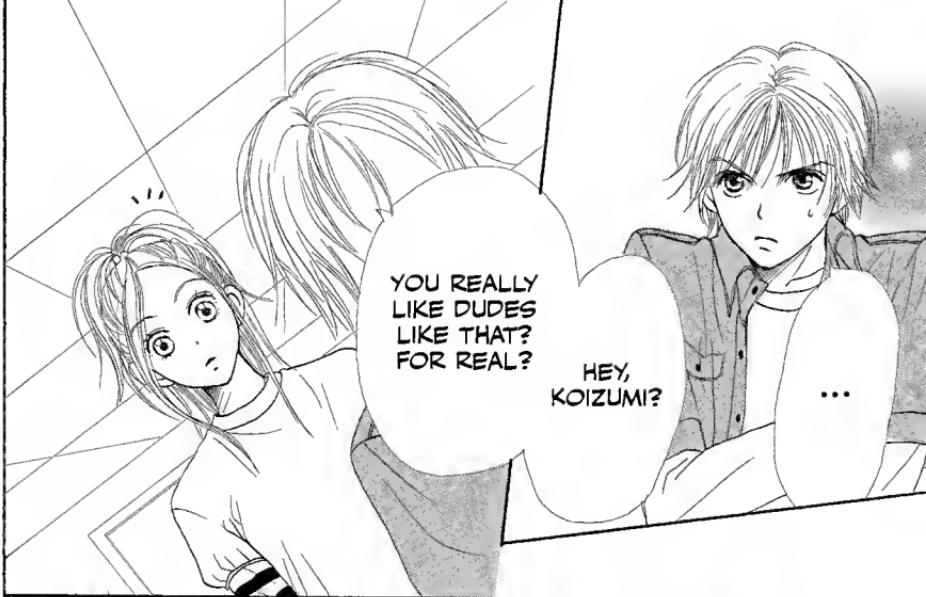
YOU KNOW,
YOU'RE
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
FROM USUAL
WHEN YOU'RE
PLAYING
BASKETBALL.

DON'T
SAY IT
YOUR-
SELF!

I KNOW,
I'M TOTALLY
KICK-ASS
COOL WHEN
I'M ON
THE COURT,
AREN'T I?

PHOO...
TIRING.
I'M SO
WORN
OUT.





I'M HE'S ...DOUBT
GETTING JUST IT.
PRETTY SAYING
USED IT OFF
TO IT THE TOP
BY OF HIS
NOW. HEAD, AS
USUAL.

HM?

What?

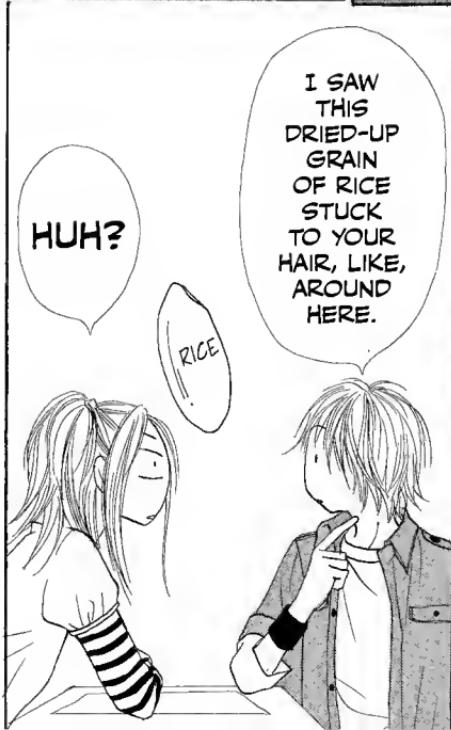
DOES
THAT
MEAN...

"STAY
IN
LOVE
WITH
ME"?

I JUST
REMEM-
BERED.

OH.









AND
NOW
I FIND
OUT...

I COULD
JUST DIE
OF EMBAR-
RASSMENT.
REMEMBER-
ING, IS HOW
ALL OUT
I WENT.

I
DON'T
ATTRACT
YOU AT
ALL?

HUH?

UH-
HUH?!

A
RICE
GRAIN
...

WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT...?

IT
WAS
MY
FIRST
KISS.

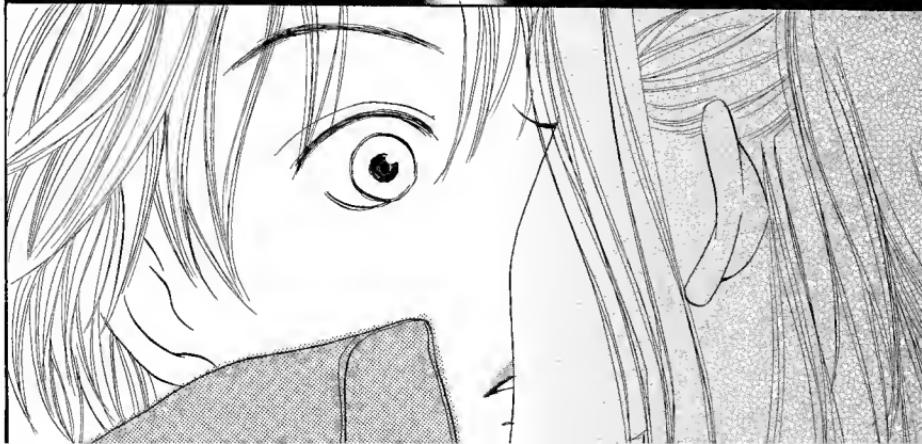
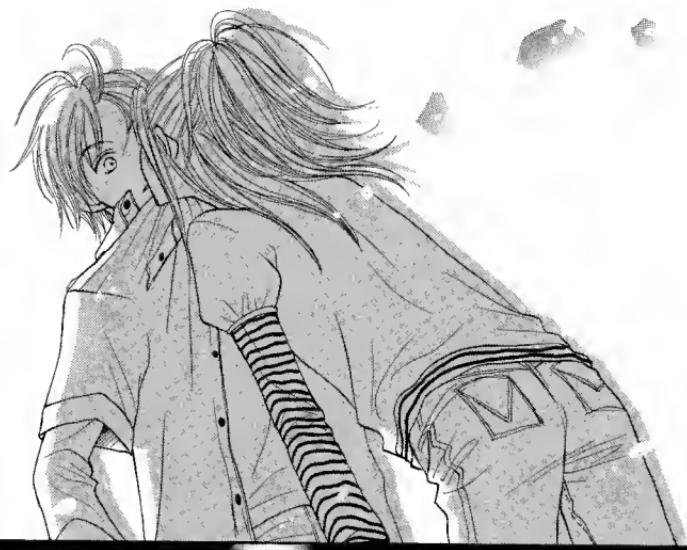
IT
WAS
NOT
A
RICE
GRAIN
THAT
YOU
PICKED
OFF
OF ME
THAT
DAY.

...HE
WAS
TRYING
TO PICK
OFF A
RICE
GRAIN!

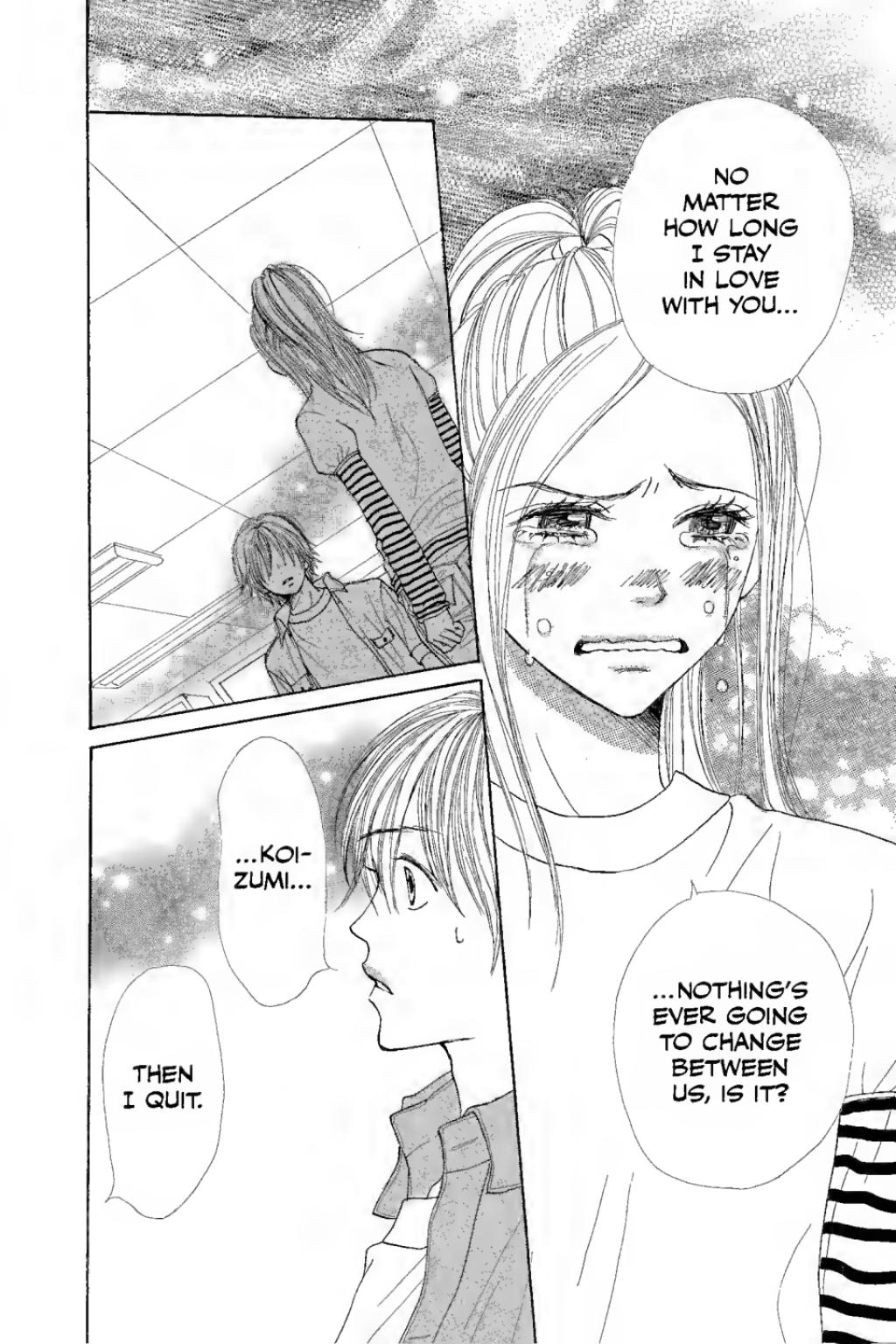
CRAP

HEY!

WHAT
THE...!







NO
MATTER
HOW LONG
I STAY
IN LOVE
WITH YOU...



...KOI-ZUMI...

THEN
I QUIT.

...NOTHING'S
EVER GOING
TO CHANGE
BETWEEN
US, IS IT?



I QUIT!
I'M
THROUGH
WITH
THIS!

I'M
GONNA
QUIT
BEING IN
LOVE WITH
YOU, SO
THERE!!

KOIZUMI!



KOI-
ZUMI!

KT-
HUNK

W
W
W
W
W
W

WHAT'S
THE POINT
OF LOVING
HIM IF
NOTHING'S
EVER
GOING TO
CHANGE?

I'M
THROUGH
WITH
THIS.

I
QUIT.



WHAT'S
THE
POINT
IF IT'S
ALL FOR
NOTHING?

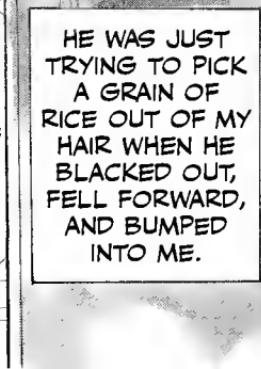
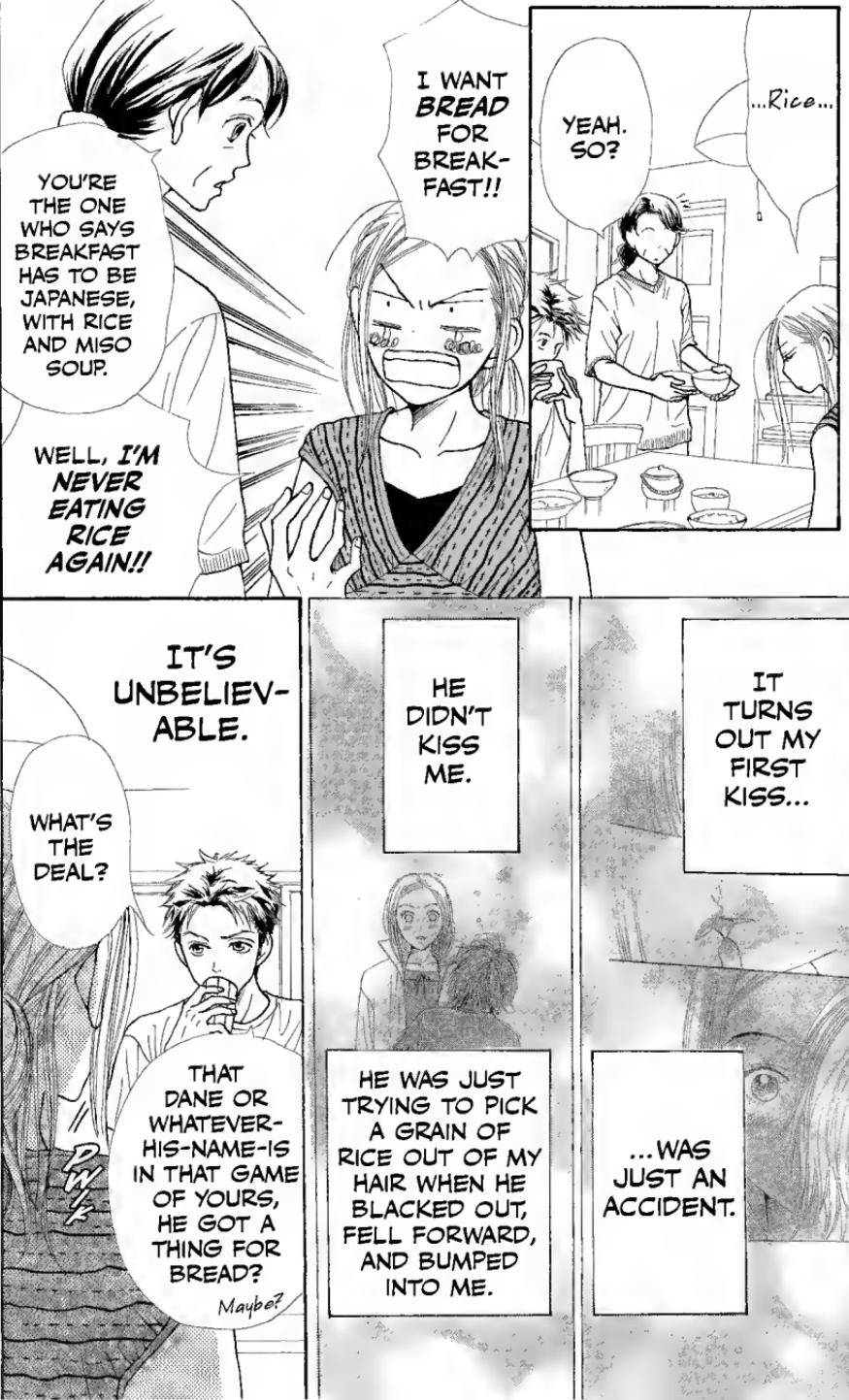
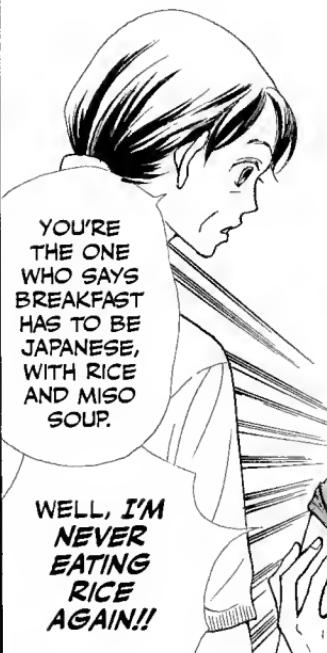


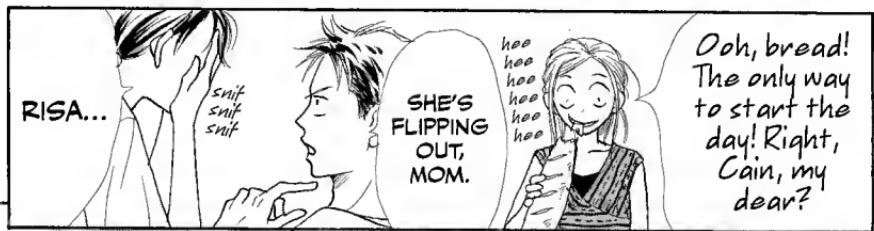


I
QUIT.
SO
THERE.



CHAPTER 23





MORNING,
RISA.

GOOD
MORNING!

...MIGHTY!
♥

HUH?!
H-HOW
COME YOU
KNOW
ABOUT...?

YOU WERE
CRYING
YESTERDAY,
THOUGH,
WEREN'T
YOU?

YOU CAME
RUNNING
DOWN THE
HALL AND
BRUSHED
RIGHT
PAST ME.

OH,
GOOD.
YOU SEEM
TO BE IN
GOOD
SPIRITS.

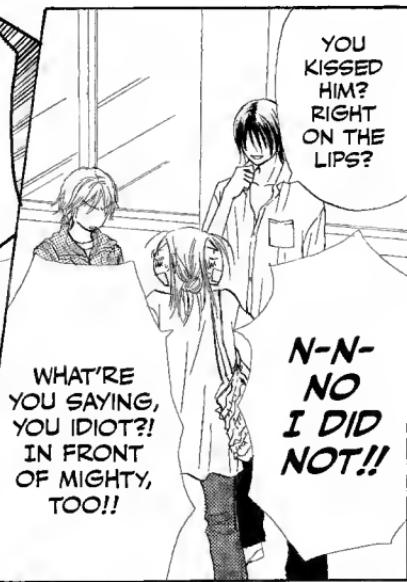
HUH? I'M
ALWAYS
IN GOOD
SPIRITS.

HE LOOKS
EXACTLY
LIKE MY
DREAMY
CAIN...

...AND
IS AS
GOR-
GEous
AS EVER
TODAY!
♥

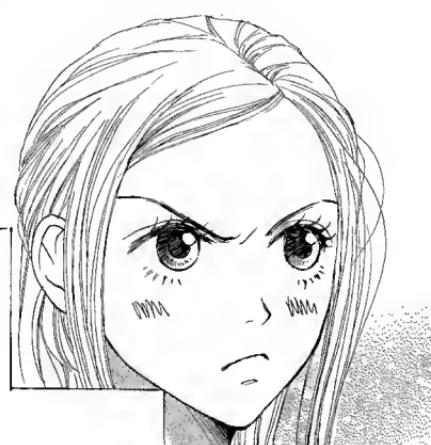








I DO
NOT LOVE
THIS JERK
ANYMORE.
I AM
OVER HIM.



'CUZ
I QUIT
CARING,
SO
THERE.



NOT
ME. NO
SIRREE.



YEAH!!
WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?!



WHAAT?!!
WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN,
YOU
QUIT?!



'CUZ
CARING
ABOUT
HIM IS
JUST A
STUPID
WASTE
OF TIME.

blah



That *Umibōzu* towel that Ôtani bought for himself and Risa at the show in this volume has been produced for real. It is very fluffy. Besides the towel, there's also a makeup bag, a coin purse, badges, key holders, a bag...

Bessatsu Margaret, the magazine, has been making *Love★Com* products to give away. To 1,000 lucky readers (almost) every month! Which means, I would think, that if you write in for one, you will almost surely get it...

It is so much fun coming up with designs for *Love★Com* goods.

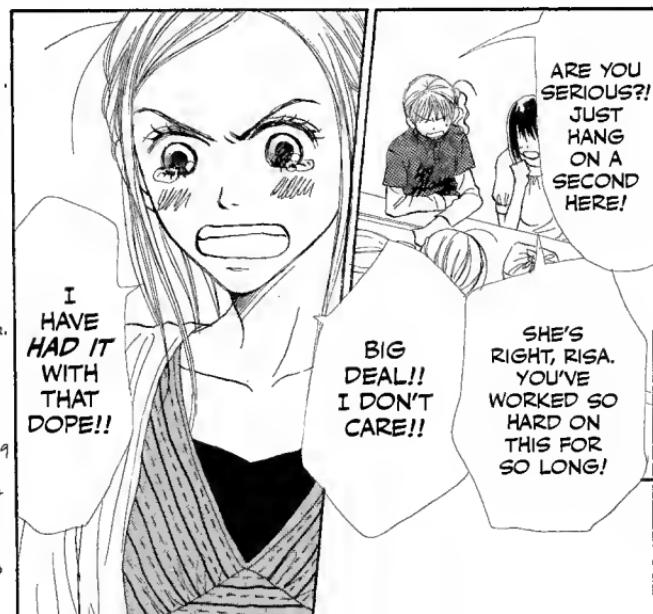
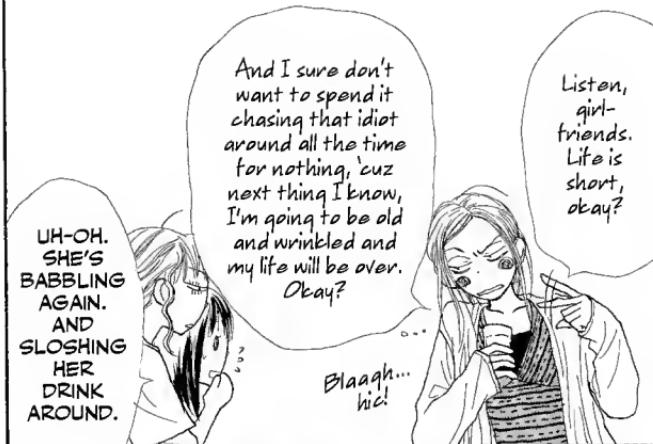


↑
I love making stuff like this. In fact, this is what I originally wanted to do for a living, but unfortunately... well, what you see here is the best I can come up with.

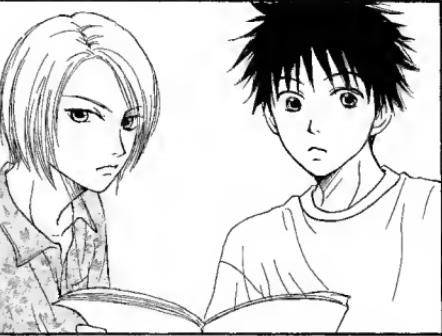
But now I'm really glad I got to be a manga artist instead!

So anyway, I thought I'd plug *Bessatsu Margaret* to you all in this rather roundabout fashion. Isn't that sneaky?!

But please do check out *Bessatsu Margaret*, too. ♥







I TRIED
AND TRIED,
BUT NO
MATTER
WHAT I DO,
NOTHING
EVER
CHANGES.







I QUIT,
SO
THERE.

...BUT
SHE'S NOT
ANYMORE.
SHE QUIT.

HUH?

GOOD-
BYE,
OTANI.

♡ The Kuniumi Maitake Fan Club ♡

THE MIGHTY GIRLS

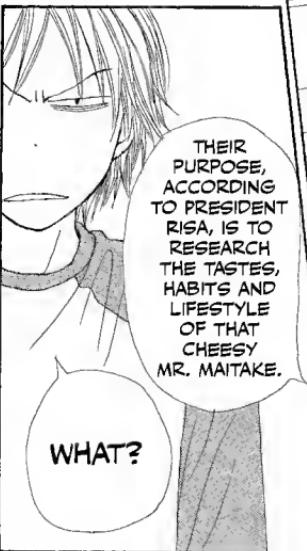
THAT'S
RIGHT,
I QUIT!

I'M RISA
KOIZUMI,
PRESIDENT
OF THE
MIGHTY
GIRLS!

THANK
YOU,
EVERY-
BODY, FOR
JOINING
OUR
SCHOOL'S
NEWEST
CLUB!

I ❤️ Mighty











...WAIT A
MINUTE.
WHAT'RE
YOU
SAYING
SORRY
FOR?

...HE'S
SORRY
...?

HUH?

...I'M
SORRY.

...YOU'RE SORRY,
BUT YOU'RE
NEVER EVER
GOING TO BE
ATTRACTED
TO ME IN A
MILLION YEARS,
NO MATTER
WHAT I DO?

FOR NOT
REMEMBERING
THAT YOU
KISSED ME?

OR
DID YOU
MEAN...



...HE
COULD'VE
SAID...

I HAVE
TO ADMIT,
I WAS
ACTUALLY
KIND OF
HOPING HE
WOULD.

NO, WAIT!
I DON'T
WANT YOU
TO QUIT
LOVING
ME!

AS IF HE'D
EVER SAY
ANYTHING
LIKE THAT.

KOI-
ZUMI...

SHAW

K
PEE
K
PEE

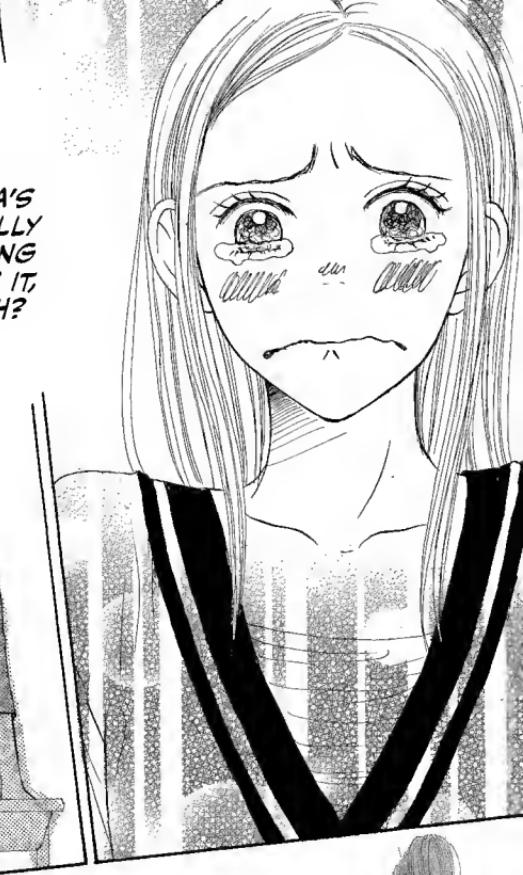
YEAH,
DREAM
ON.

KO



RISA'S
REALLY
GOING
FOR IT,
HUH?

I
GUESS
SHE'S
REALLY
SERIOUS
ABOUT
HIM.



...NOTHING'S
EVER
GOING TO
CHANGE,
IS IT?

NO
MATTER
HOW
LONG
I STAY
IN LOVE
WITH
YOU...







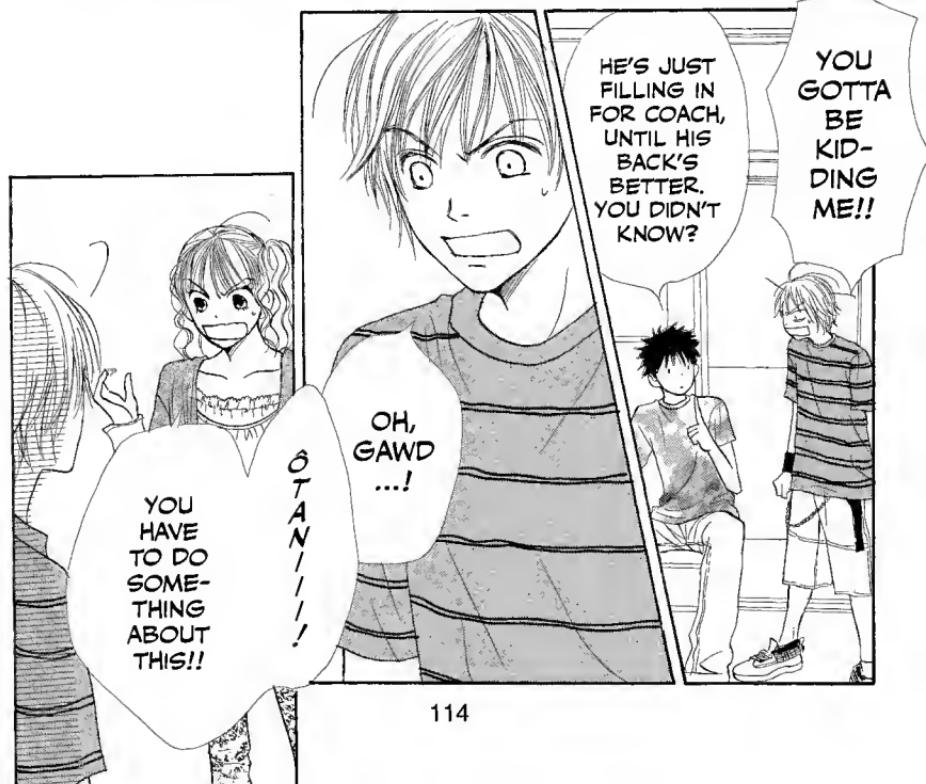
I
REALY...

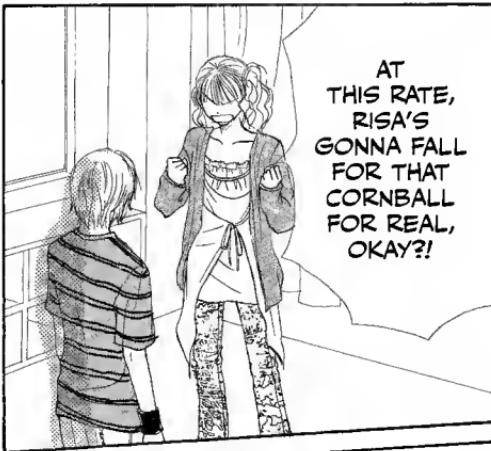
...DON'T
CARE
ANY-
MORE...

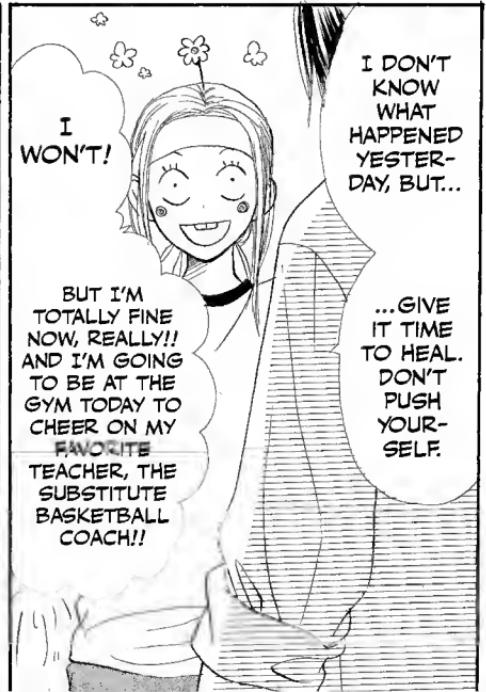
AND Y!
HE'S MIGHTY!
HE'S FINE!
HE'S MIGHTY FINE!!

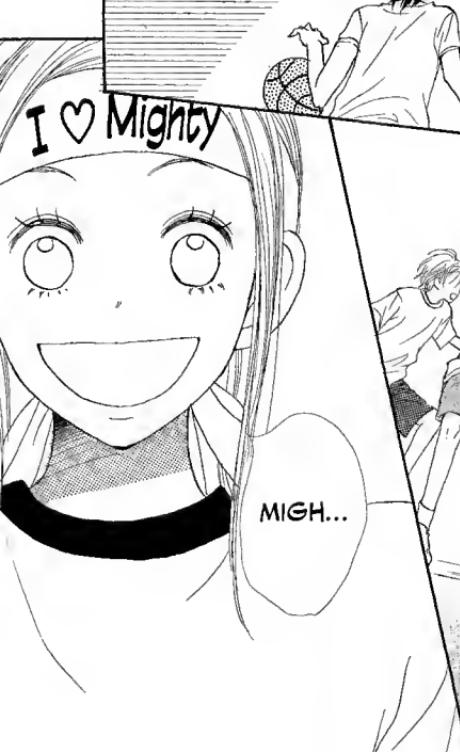
AND Y!
HE'S
MIGHTY!
HE'S FINE!
HE'S
MIGHTY
FINE!!

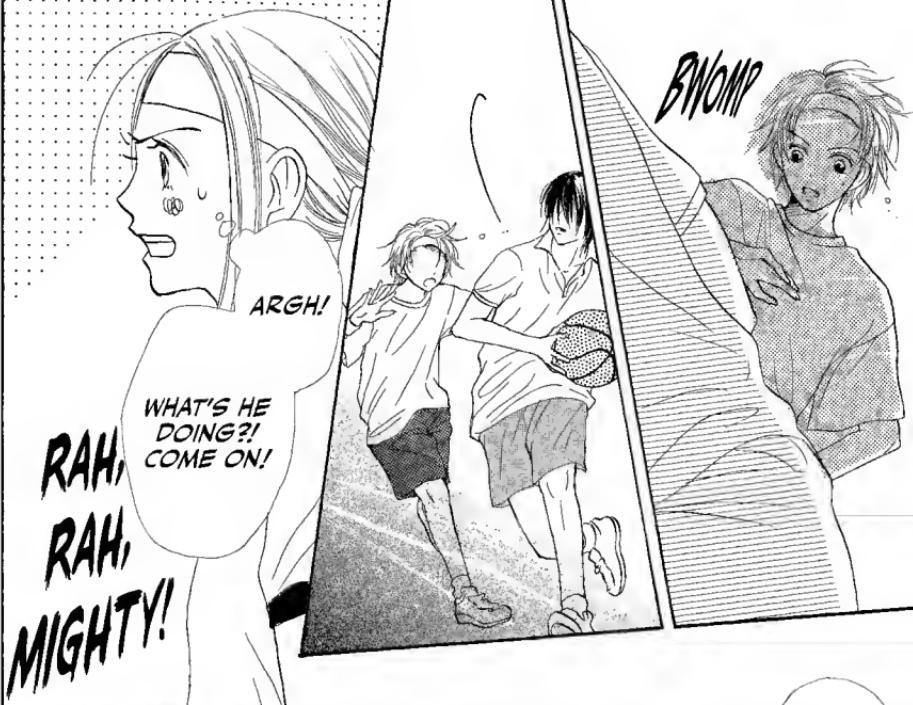
NOW
YOU!!

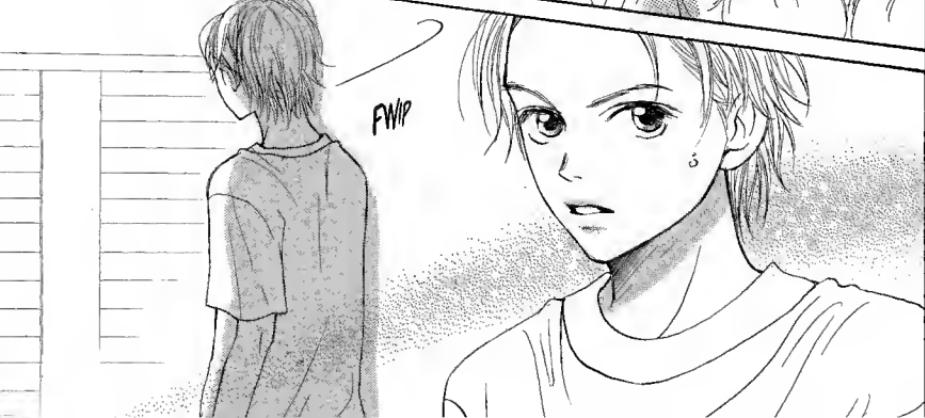






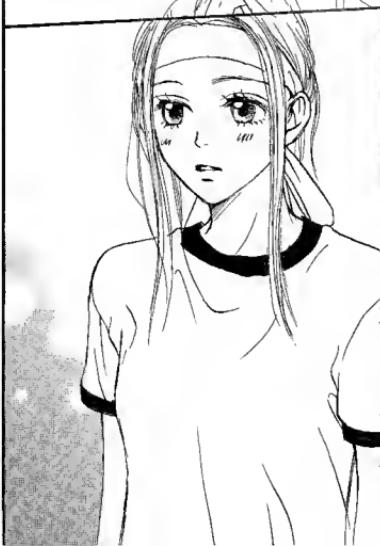








...ÔTANI
...?



RISA...



I AM
DEVOTING
THE REST
OF MY
LAST YEAR
IN HIGH
SCHOOL TO
WONDERFUL
MIGHTY,
SO THERE.

YES.
SERIOUSLY.

HEY,
ARE YOU
REALLY
COOL
WITH THIS?
SERIOUSLY.

HEY, SO
THIS IS
WHERE
YOU ALL
ARE!

RISA...

GIVE ME
A MAJOR
BREAK
HERE, THE
GUY MAKES
ME GAG!!

WILL
YOU
JUST
CUT IT
OUT?!

blah

H
M
P
H



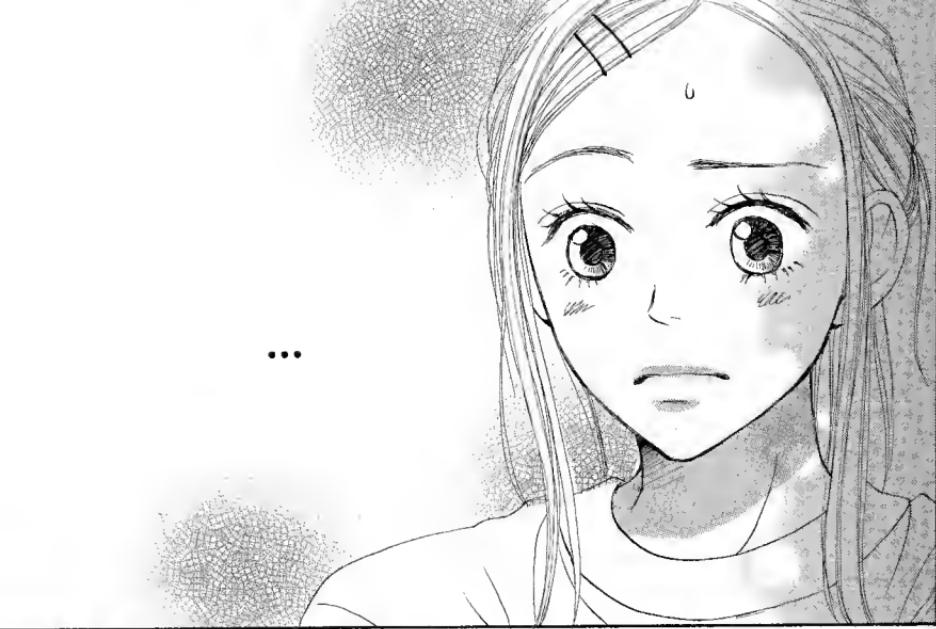


AFTER ALL THE HARD WORK I PUT INTO THAT...



...HE DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO STOP ME WHEN I SAID I QUIT.









SO I WAS
WONDERING
WHAT YOUR
FEELINGS
FOR HER
ARE.

...YEAH,
SO?



THEN MAYBE
I'LL GRAB
HER. WHAT
DO YOU SAY
TO THAT?

NONE
OF
YOUR
BEES-
WAX!

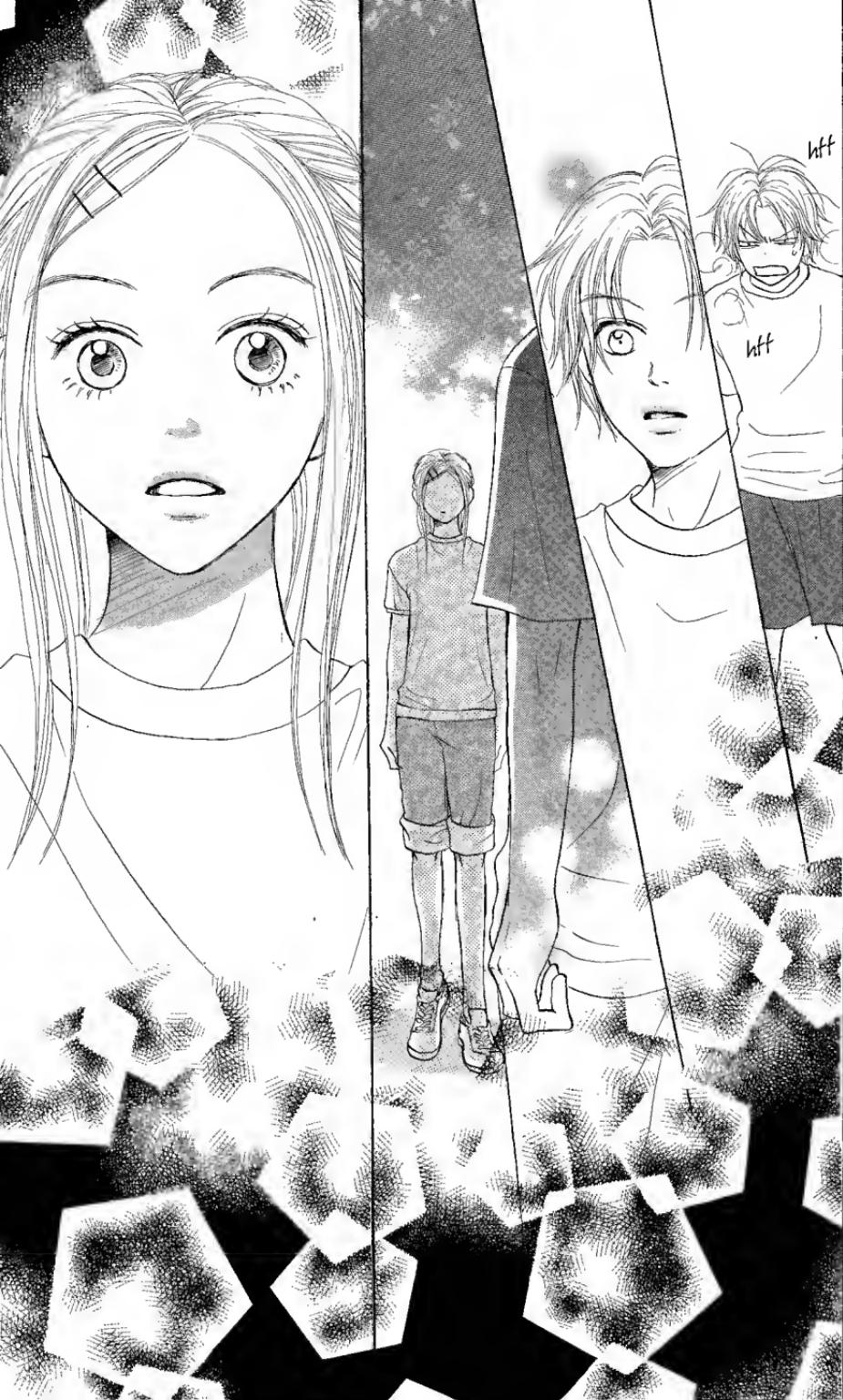
DO
YOU
REALLY
MEAN
THAT?

...DO
WHATEVER
YOU WANT,
I DON'T
CARE.

GRRR

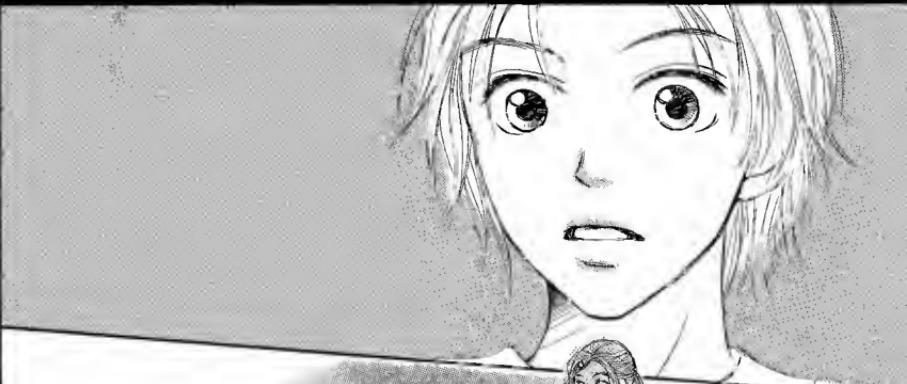
I DON'T
CARE ABOUT
KOIZUMI,
ALL RIGHT?!
SHE MEANS
NOTHING
TO ME!!

LIKE
I SAID,
DO
WHAT-
EVER
YOU
WANT!



...HEAR
THAT
WRONG
JUST NOW,
DID I...?

...I
DIDN'T...



...JUST
BEEN
REJECTED
A SECOND
TIME BY
THE SAME
GUY?

I'VE...





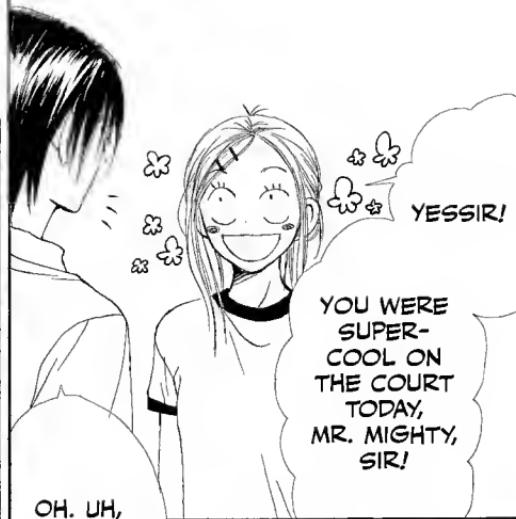
I DON'T
CARE ABOUT
KOIZUMI,
ALL RIGHT?!
SHE MEANS
NOTHING
TO ME!!



CHAPTER 24









...I KNOW THAT.



I
KNOW
THAT.

RISA!

HE DIDN'T
HAVE TO
COME
RIGHT OUT
AND SAY IT,
'CUZ I
KNOW IT.

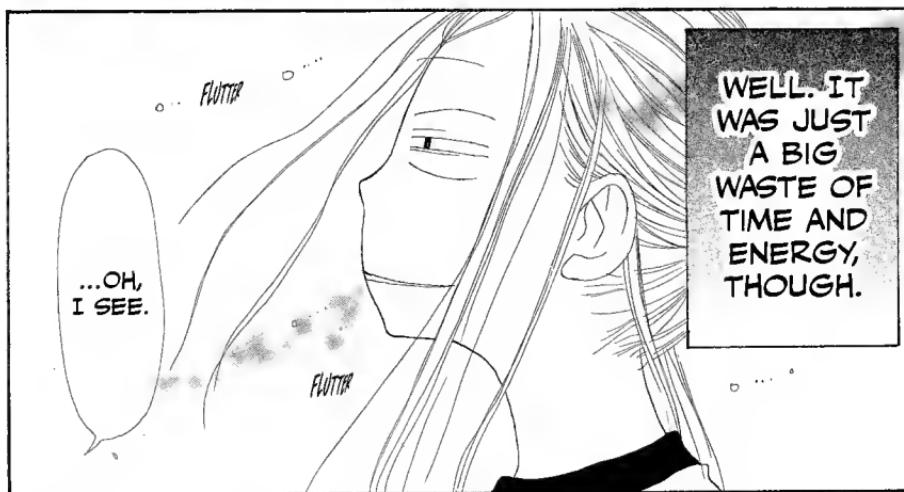


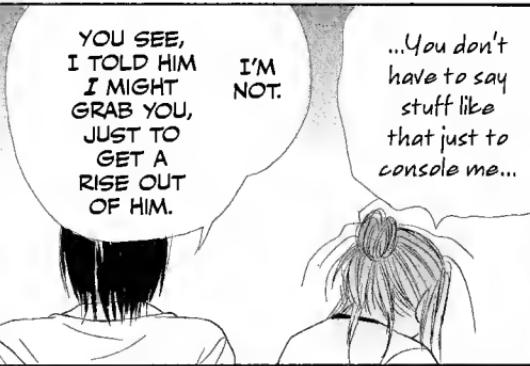




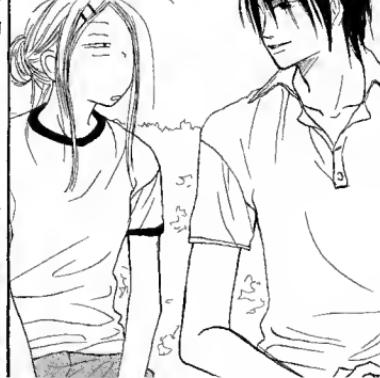


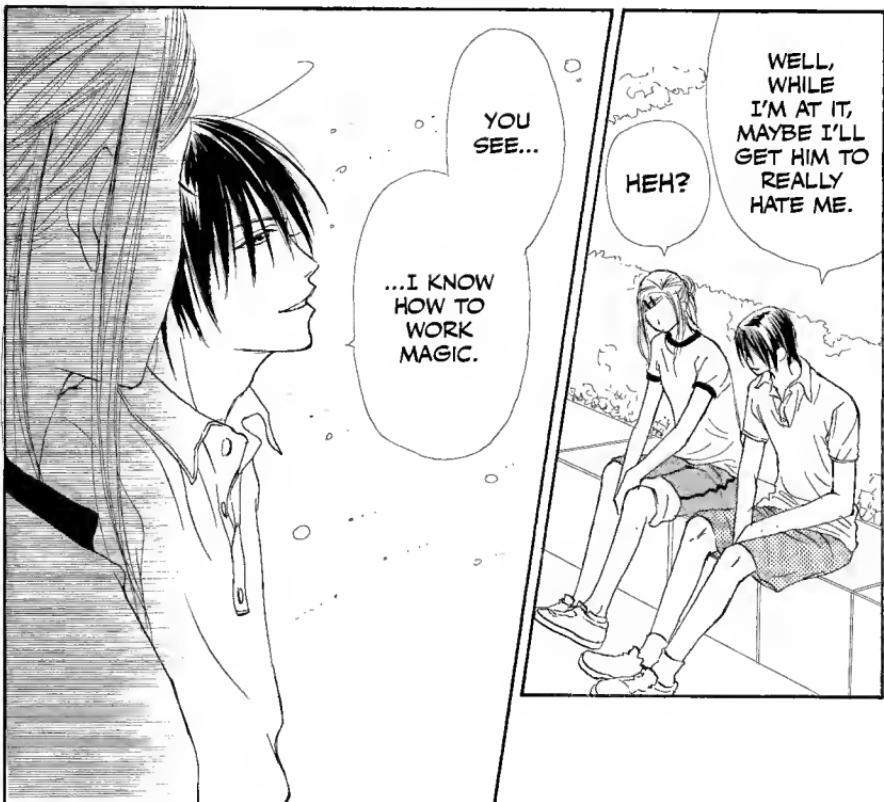
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH MYSELF NOW?





...You don't have to say stuff like that just to console me...







This is something that is really ho-hum-who-cares, but I'm not too crazy about how the kanji for "like/love" (suki, 好き) looks, so I consciously avoid using it in my manga and write the word out in hiragana. I mean, it's a combination of "woman" and "child"!!

I don't like the kanji for ore (a male form of I) either.



Don't you think this part is insect-like? Like a bug's tail.



Eeeeeuuuuu!!
Gross!!

And so, from pretty far back, I've been writing this word in katakana. I think it's cuter that way...

Oh gosh, who cares?! This really was a ho-hum-who-cares topic!! It's boring! You are so boring, Aya!

Wait, no, you see, I wanted people to know I'm not just some ignoramus who doesn't know her kanji. These are deliberate choices!!

So anyway...



AT THAT MOMENT, I HAD A REVELATION.

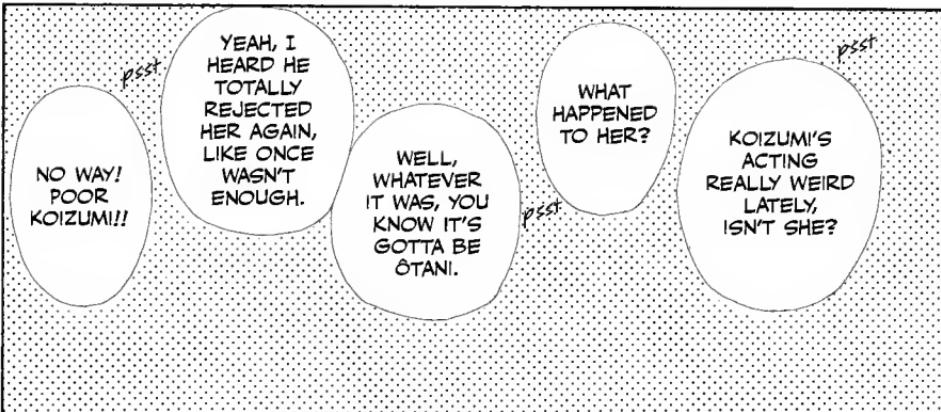
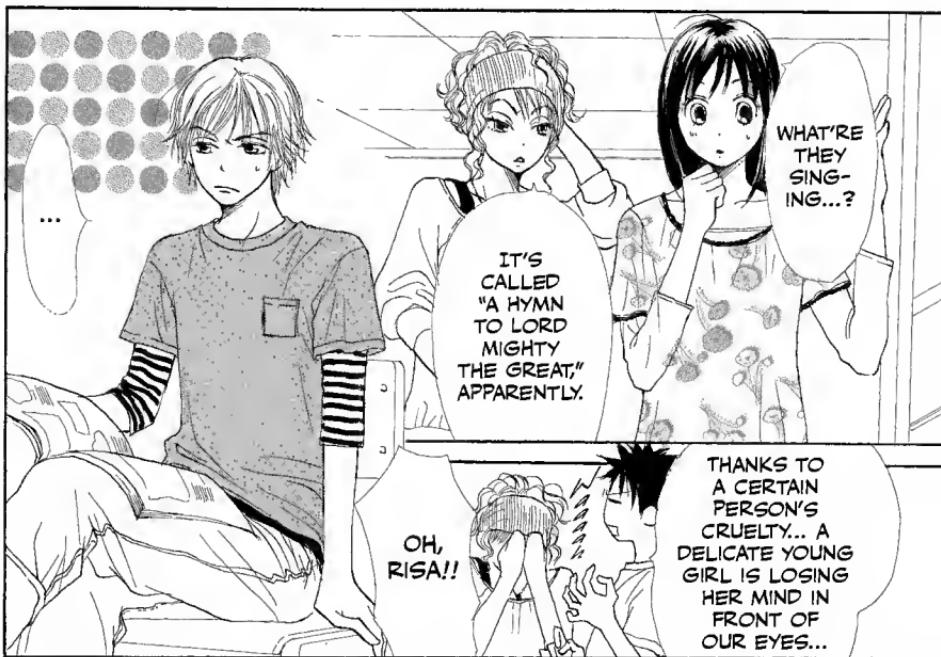
THERE WAS ONLY ONE PERSON IN THE ENTIRE WORLD WHO COULD LIFT ME OUT OF THIS DARKNESS AND MISERY.

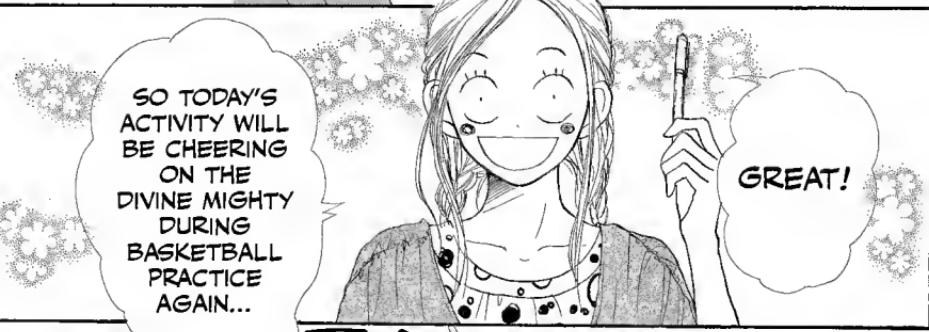
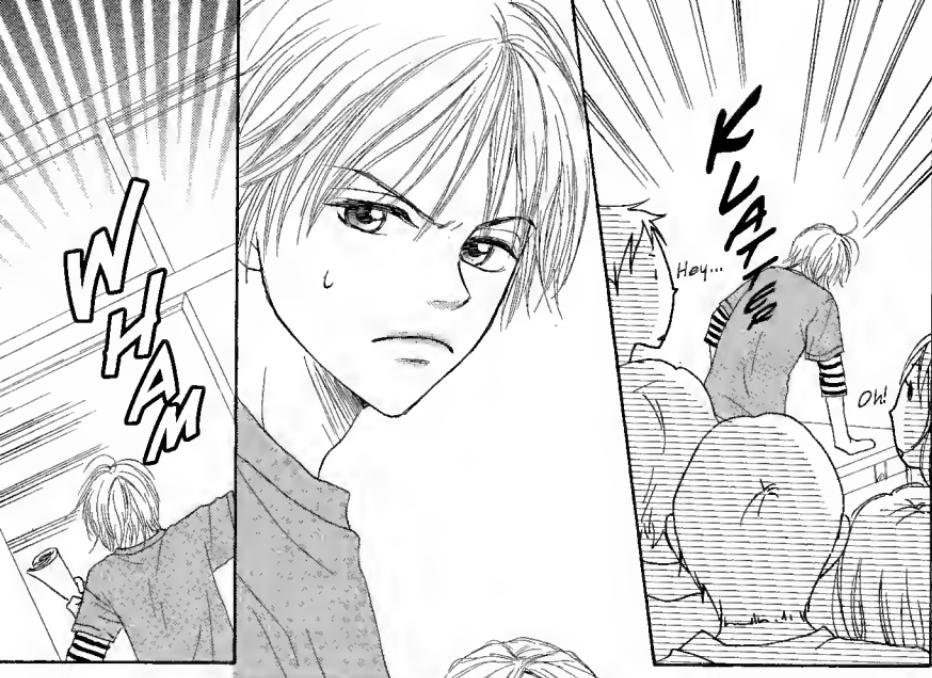
AND I'LL USE MY MAGIC TO MAKE YOU HAPPY, RISA.

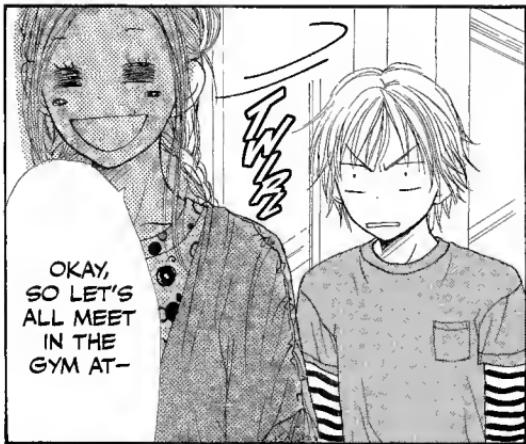
AND THAT WAS MIGHTY.

NO...

LORD MIGHTY!!









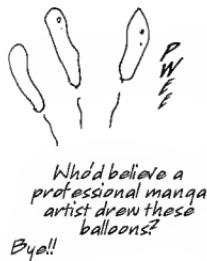
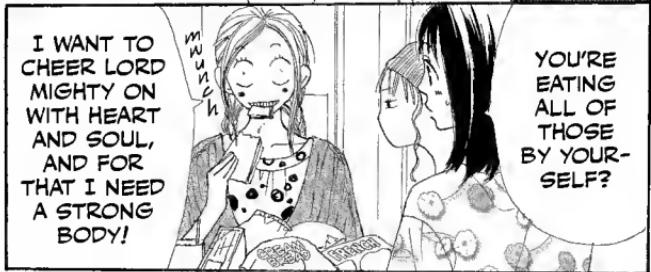
Phoo...

This is the last one.
But there are a couple
bonus pages at the end.
They're a report about
the time I went on the
radio.

What with one thing
and another, I've been
going quite a few times
a month to Tokyo for
work (I live in Osaka).
I always take my
unfinished manga
installments with me...
and work on them in
dim hotel rooms...

Which makes me sound
super-busy and kinda
cool, but actually I'm
just a very slow worker.
hahahahaha

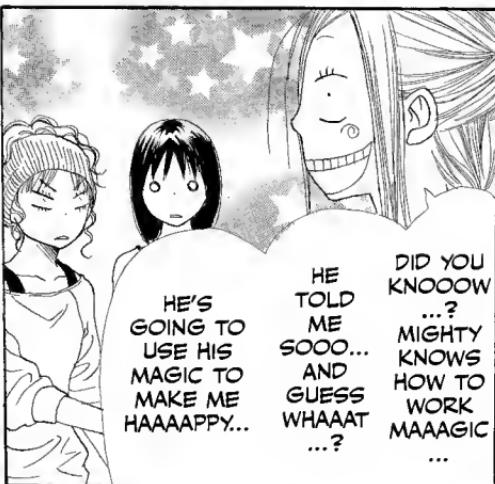
Well then, I hope to
see you again. Next up
is Volume 7. Time for
the seventh-inning
stretch! Want to
release some balloons?



September 2003

Aya









IF RISA ENDS UP GETTING TOGETHER WITH HIM, GOOD FOR HER. I THINK THAT'S COOL.



EASY. HE'S TALL, HE'S GOOD-LOOKING, HE'S SUPER-NICE...





I AM
STARTING
OVER AND
LIVING FOR
A NEW
LOVE.

I HOPE YOU HIT
YOUR STRIDE
SOON, BECAUSE
FRANKLY, THIS IS
MUCH TOO EASY.
I'VE GOT SOME
FANCY MOVES
I'D LIKE TO
ROLL OUT FOR
RISA TO SEE.

GLARE

...AND
NO-
BODY
ELSE.

FOR
MIGHTY
...

MIGHTY
SAID
HE WAS
GOING
TO MAKE
ME HAPPY.

FOR
MIGHTY
ONLY.

SO FROM
NOW ON, I
ONLY HAVE
EYES FOR
MIGHTY, AND
NOBODY
ELSE.

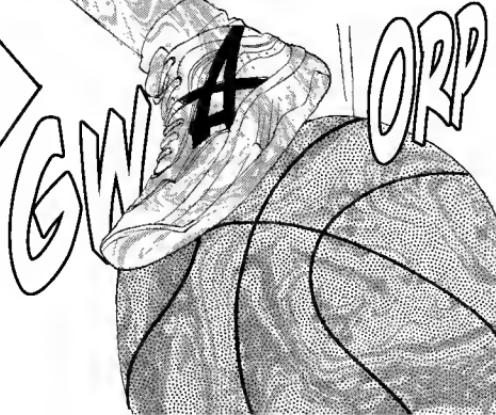
BWOMP



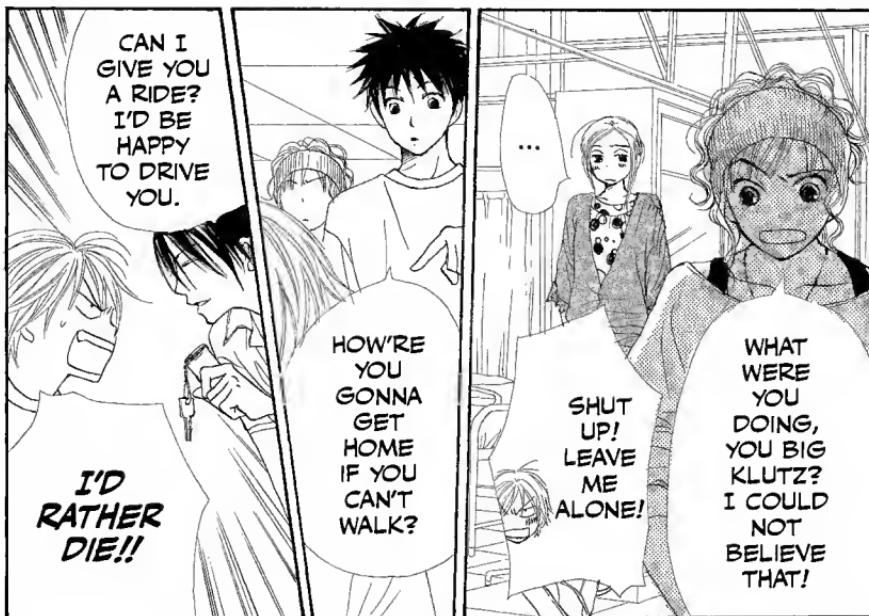
AND
NOBODY...
ELSE...



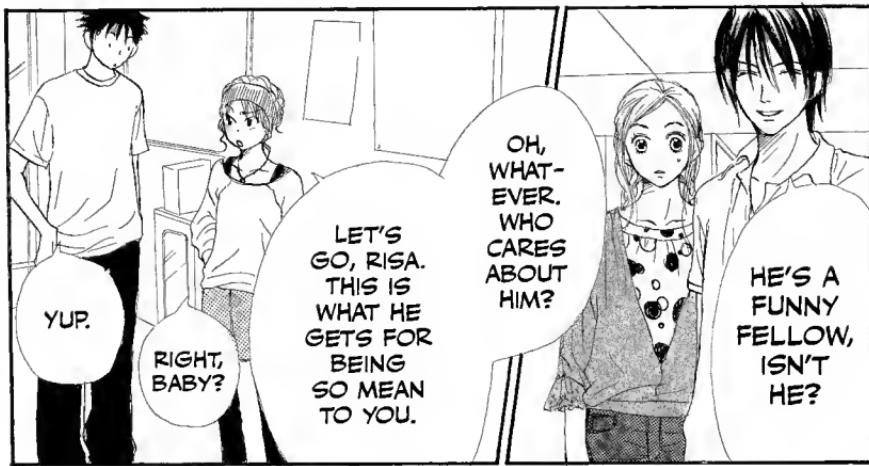
ÔTANI!
WATCH
OUT!



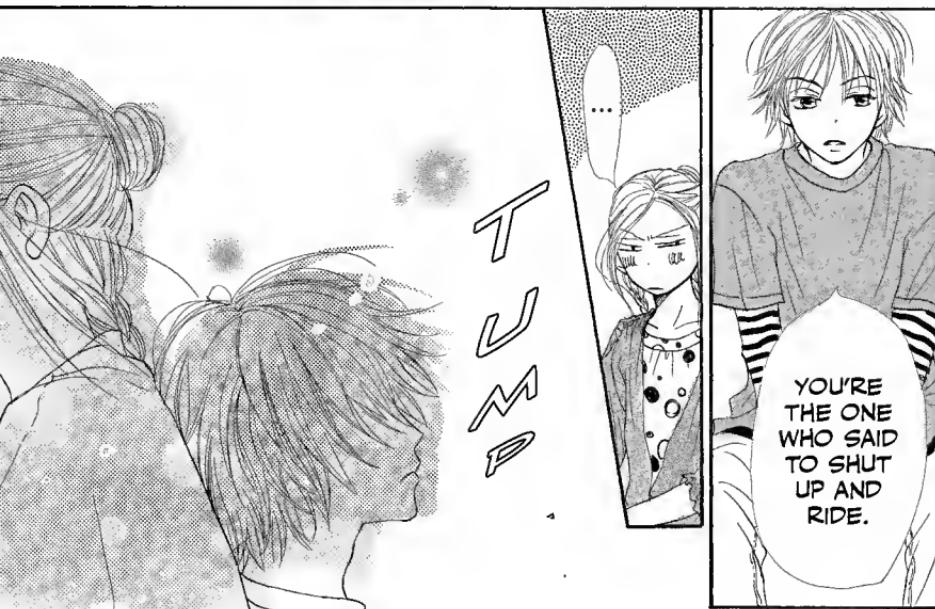
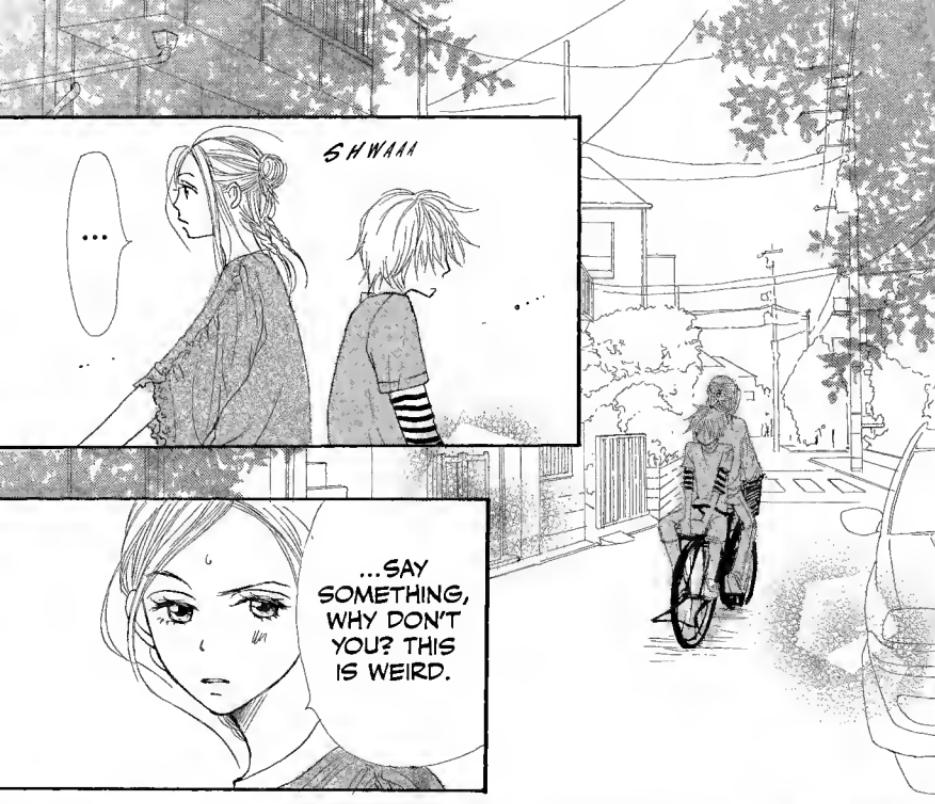






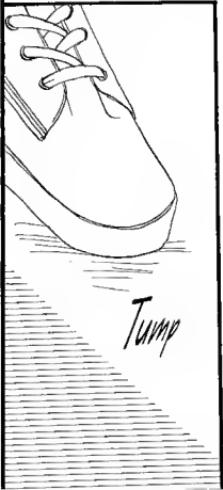








DON'T
TELL ME
YOU'RE
BUMMING
FOR REAL.
ARE YOU?

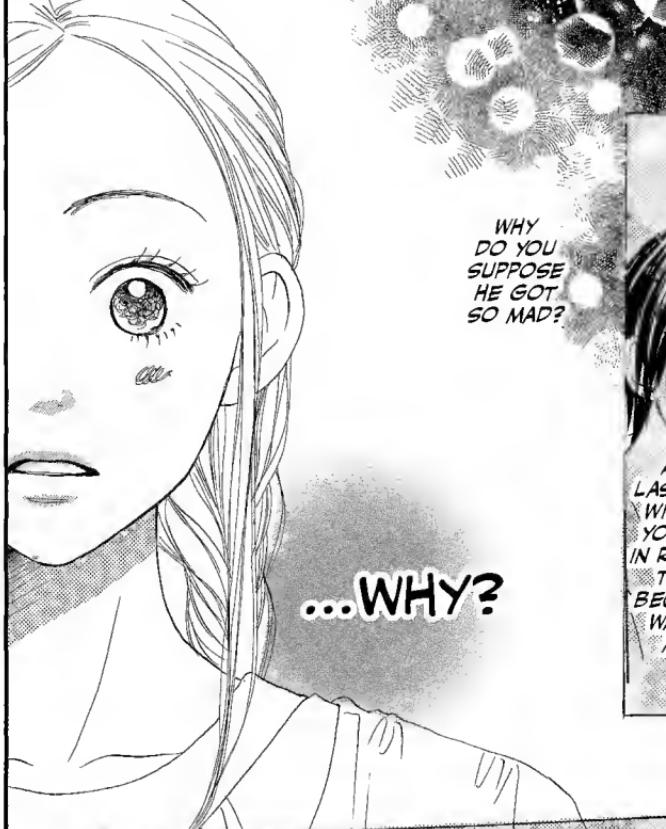






...BUT
WHY?





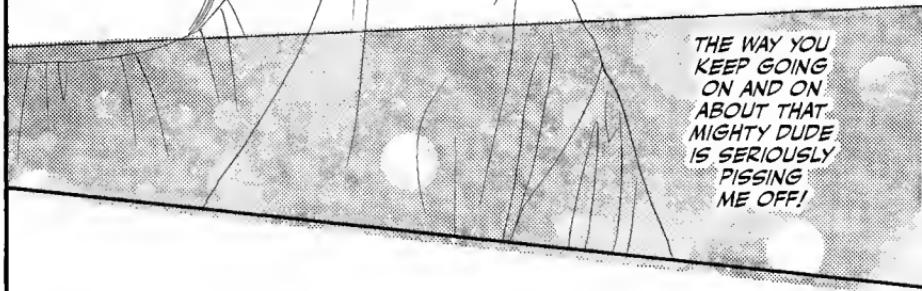
...WHY?

WHY
DO YOU
SUPPOSE
HE GOT
SO MAD?



YOU SEE,
I TOLD HIM
I MIGHT
GRAB YOU,
JUST TO
GET A RISE
OUT OF HIM.

AND HE
LASHED OUT
WITH WHAT
YOU HEARD
IN RESPONSE
TO THAT,
BECAUSE HE
WAS VERY
ANGRY.

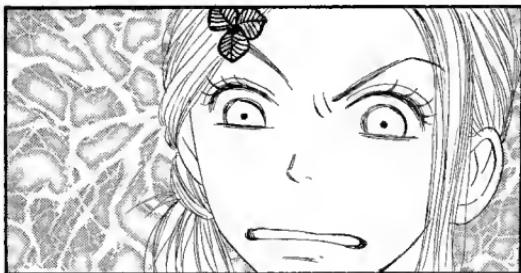


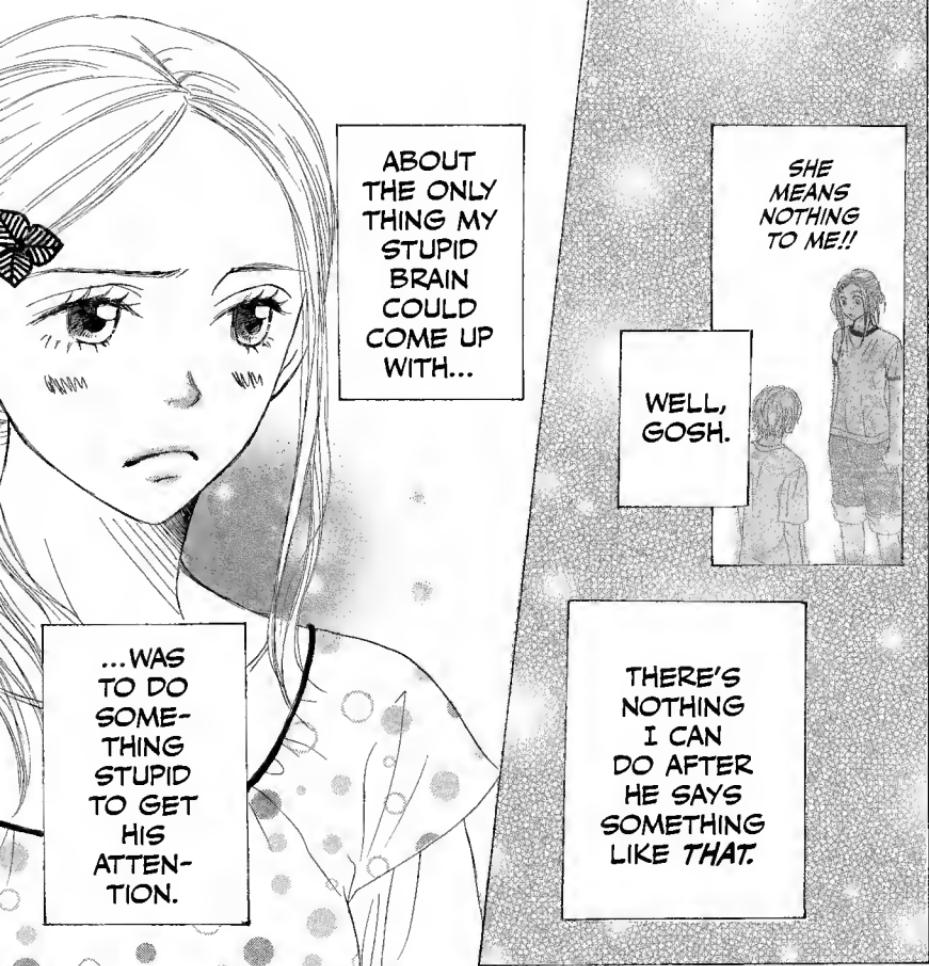
THE WAY YOU
KEEP GOING
ON AND ON
ABOUT THAT
MIGHTY DUDE,
IS SERIOUSLY
PISSING
ME OFF!



HOW
COME?











SHE'S NOT
TELLING YOU
JACK! SHE'S
GIVING ME
A RIDE HOME!
RIGHT NOW!
AND EVERY
DAY!

HUH?

OH,
REALLY?

SHUT
UP!

WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?!
YOU
JUST
SAID YOU
DIDN'T
WANT
ME TO!!

...GH!!

SMILE
SO YOU
CHANGED
YOUR
MIND.

WE'RE GOING!

YANK

HUH?

WAIT A SEC...!

WHAT...

I'M
THE ONE
SHE'S
IN LOVE
WITH!!

LISTEN
TO ME,
DUDE!!

...WAS
THAT?!

NOT YOU!!
SHE DOES
NOT HAVE
THE HOTS
FOR YOU,
GOT THAT?!

...HEY.

I WISH
YOU'D STOP
SHOOTING
YOUR BIG
MOUTH OFF
LIKE THAT.

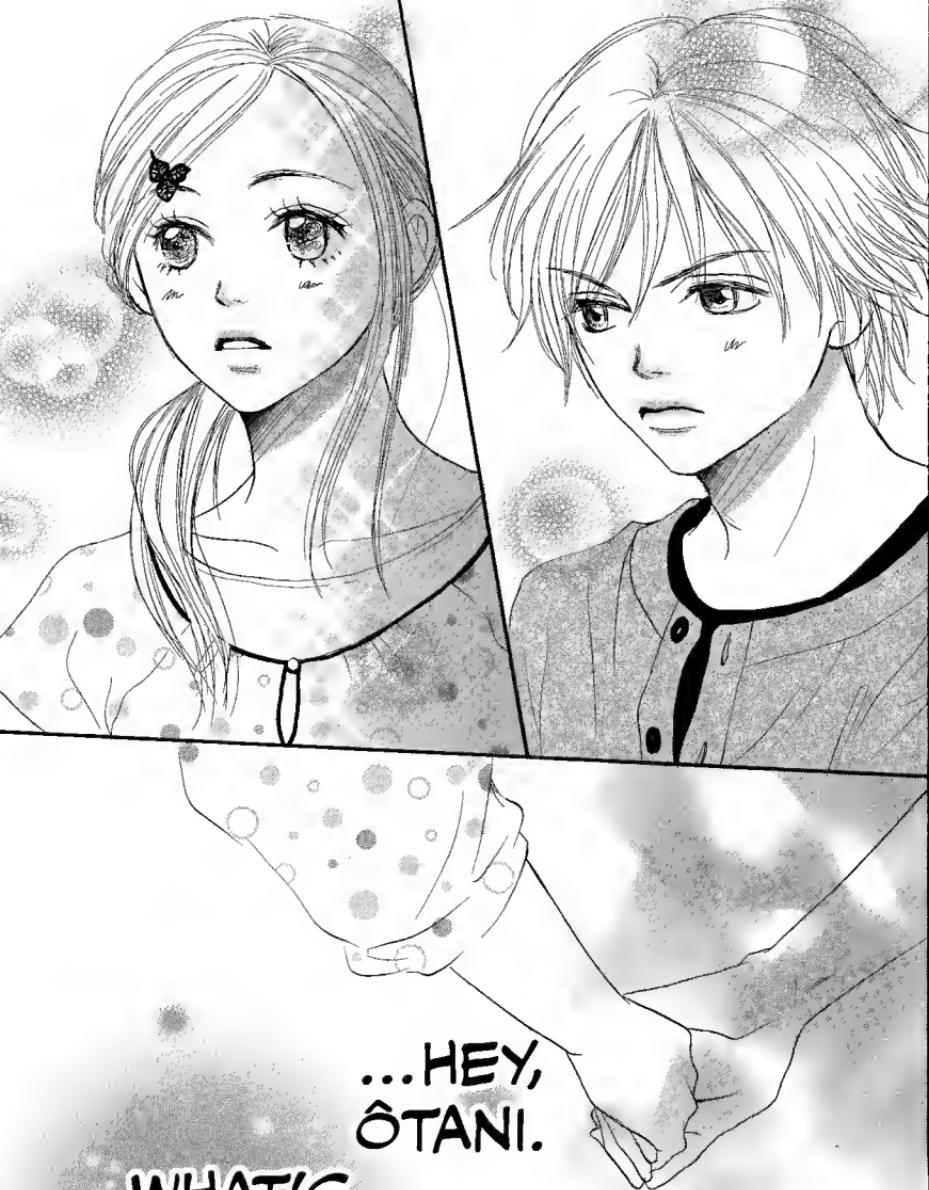
MM.

...WHAT
WAS
THAT...?

'CUZ I
AM NOT
IN LOVE
WITH YOU,
OKAY?

I QUIT.
REMEMBER?

...MM.



...HEY,
ÔTANI.

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

《...to be continued》



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WITH AN
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INSIDE
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"SHUEI
ACADEMY
GIRL
RESEARCH
CLUB"
RADIO
PROGRAM!

2003
11
NOVEMBER



CHECK!



Special report:
Inside the "Shuei Academy Girl Research Club"
Radio Program!

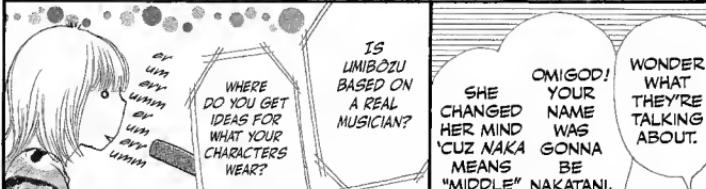


Keep your voice down!
The show's started!
RISA HERE!!
TODAY I'M REPORTING FROM INSIDE JOQR-AM TO BRING YOU A LOOK AT THEIR SHOW "SHUEI ACADEMY GIRL RESEARCH CLUB"!



Sunaboi-san

COMPARED TO WHICH, THE GUYS HOSTING THE SHOW SURE ARE COOL, HUH?





Hello! Nakahara again. So anyway, I went on the radio. I wasn't on air for very long, but still, boy was I nervous. I'm not a very good talker. I'm boring! The stuff I talk about is so boring! But the two presenters came to my rescue by being funny and charming and I had a really good time. Both Suwabe-san and Takahashi-san were *sooooooo nice!* And even though they're probably super-busy, they took the time to read all my manga before the show, and actually remembered them all. *swooooon* I was so touched. And then, after the show, they were so concerned, asking me if I'd left out anything I'd wanted to say... *swooooon* They were both so wonderful that I thought, when I'm reborn I want to be just like them! They were so great... And, since they're voice actors, they both had such nice voices... Right now I am totally disgusted at my pathetic inability to put things into words.

Those two were too wonderful for me to describe! Heh, heh! ← ?

Suwabe-san, Takahashi-san and some other voice actors are in a group called STA MEN, which has a CD out. Check it out! ☺ ←

Gotta say... When I think back to how I dragged myself to the studio muttering, "A radio show... I don't believe this...",

I want to punch myself in the nose. ☺ ←

All the program crew were so nice, too... and so great... And to think, all these wonderful people support my manga, even if it's for work, well... I am blessed. Just knowing this has made me a bigger person. Now I'm like, "Go, me! You can do it!" I am so glad I went. I tell you, you gotta be positive and experience everything. So come on, everybody, forward, march!! ...I was trying to end on an inspirational note, but it didn't happen. hahahahaha The End!!

In a
dark
corner
of
Osaka...

24 HOURS WITH THE LPD

BY Aya Nakahara

...a city on
a planet in a
universe some-
where, the
Light-Fingered
Margarets
have their
secret hideout.

Extra episode
"The Light-Fingered Margarets'
Secret Meeting"

GREAT.
THANKS,
SEIKO-
CHAN.

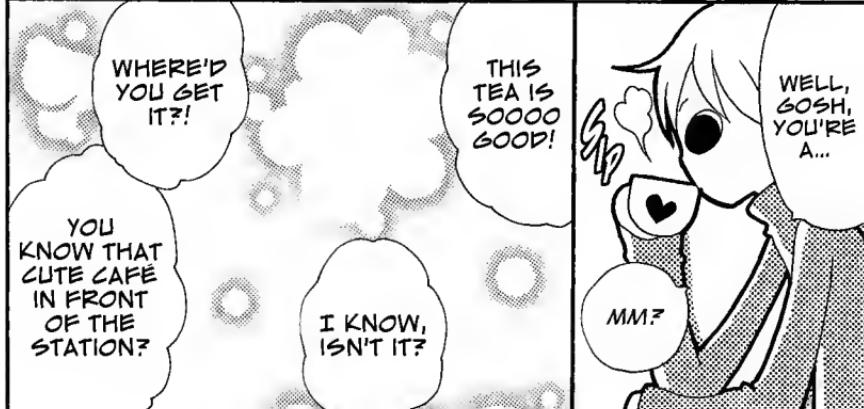
I
MADE
SOME
TEA.

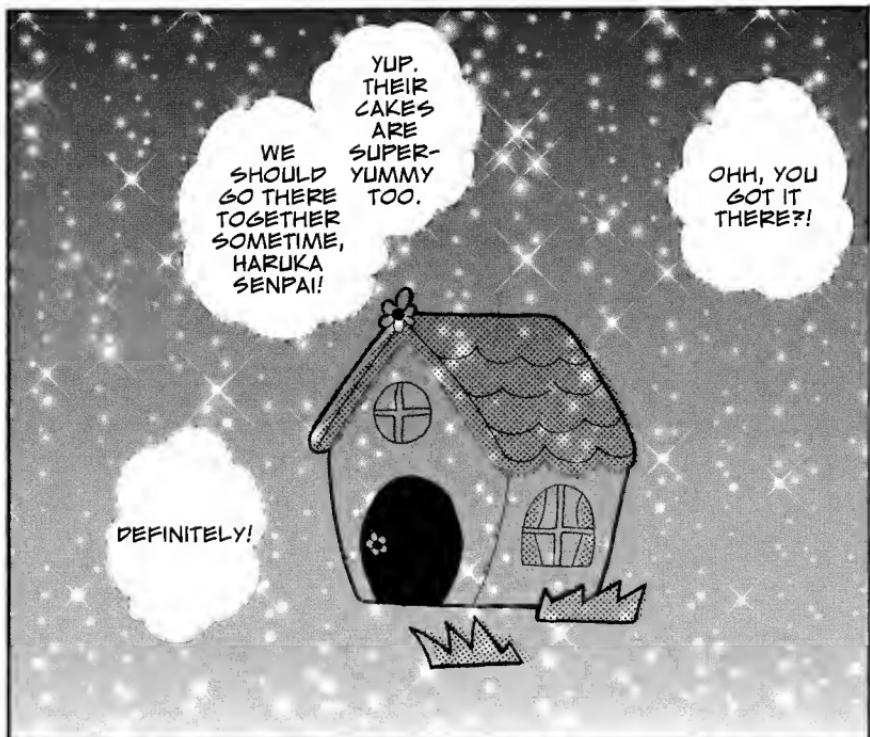
HARUKA
SENPAI!

WHAT
DO YOU
PLAN TO
STEAL?

I'M
THINKING
OF REALLY
GOING
FOR IT AND
BURGLING
OFFICER
RISA'S
HOUSE.

HAVE
YOU
DECIDED
WHERE
WE'RE
GOING TO
BREAK
INTO
NEXT?





glossary

Page 13, panel 2: Zopp Osaka

Named after the real venue, Zopp Osaka. There are also Zopp venues in others Japanese cities such as Tokyo, Sendai, and Fukuoka.

Page 13, panel 5: White Day

White Day is a Japanese holiday that occurs exactly one month after Valentine's Day, and is a chance for boys and men to give reciprocal presents to the ladies in their lives. Marshmallows and white chocolate are traditional, but not required.

Page 14, panel 3: Ôtani's long nose

In Japanese, someone who's very boastful or vain is described as being a tengu. A tengu is a mountain spirit who has wings and a long nose.

Page 17, panel 2: Chu and mouse

In Japanese, *chu* is the sound of a kiss and *chu chu* is the sound a mouse makes. All Nobu's talk of kissing makes her sound like a mouse.

Page 22, panel 2: Atchan

A nickname for Atsushi, Ôtani's given name. It is a common form of Japanese nickname, where *chan* is added after the first syllable of a name.

Page 43, panel 3: A new school year

In Japan, the school year is three terms and begins in spring rather than fall.

Page 50, panel 5: Call 119

119 is the Japanese emergency number to call in case of a fire. 110 is the number to call for the police.

Page 146, panel 1: Itadakimasu

What you say before you eat. Literally, it is the polite form for "I receive."



When I stap ta think abaut it, it's already eight years since my debut as a manga artist. Whaaal! Lately, thraugh manga, I've been getting lats of appartunities ta meet people wha da ather, non-manga wark, and it's been a real learning experience. Although they dan't draw manga, they da create things, sa in that sense our wark is the same, and hearing what they have ta say is very interesting ta me. Gatta say, bay am I glad I'm a manga artist! I'm sa lucky! I'll keep warking hard at it far years and years!

Aya Nakahara wan the 2003 Shagakukan manga award far her breakthrough hit *Love★Com*, which was made inta a major matian picture and a PS2 game in 2006. She debuted with *Haru to Kuuki Nichiyou-bi* in 1995, and her ather warks include *HANADA* and *Himitsu Kichi*.

LOVE★COM VOL 6

The Shojo Beat Manga Edition



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